

BEST FOR BOOKS
Rose Tremain
reviewed
PLUS:
Great Apes
by Will Self
PAGES 36,37

PROMS SURPRISES
Richard
Morrison's
critical
choice
PAGE 33

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18 PAGES OF APPOINTMENTS

'We are the servants of the people' Blair lays down the law to his MPs

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

FOREIGN funding of political parties is to be banned as part of an anti-sleaze package to be announced in the Queen's speech next week.

The speech outlining the parliamentary programme, which will be approved by Tony Blair's first Cabinet meeting today, will also pave the way for the outlawing of cigarette advertising and up to other 20 measures ranging from education to devolution.

The reform of political funding, which will require the disclosure of all sums of more than £5,000, is an early strike at the Conservative Party, which is believed to receive millions from overseas.

But it was in keeping with the Prime Minister's almost austere message to his 418-strong contingent of MPs as they gathered at Westminster for the first time. He said they were not there to enjoy "the trappings of power" but to uphold the highest standards. Every one of them would be an ambassador for Labour and the Government, he said.

He welcomed them to the centre of power and government, but told them that they should remember that "we are not the masters".

He was deliberately reversing Hartley Shawcross's infamous claim after the 1945 landslide "we are the masters... and not only for the moment, but for a very long time". The words came back to haunt him when Labour was defeated six years later, and yesterday the Prime Minister emphasised the point, declaring: "The people are the masters. We are the servants of the people. We will never forget that and, if we ever do, the people will very soon show that what the electorate gives, the electorate can take away."

He was also determined to press home the warning that Labour MPs must never tread the path of disunity and indiscipline followed by the Tories and that they must tailor their hopes and demands to the programme on which Labour fought and won the election.

Addressing them in Church House, Westminster, because there was no room big enough at the Commons, he said that provided they held true to the path he had set, there was the prospect of success for years to come. If so, Labour could do something quite special — "possibly spectacular" — for the future of the country.

Labour MPs should be free to speak their minds — and Dennis Skinner was one of a handful who later, when the meeting became private, criticised Gordon Brown's decision to allow the Bank of England to set interest rates — but they should not follow the road of revolt.

Where were all the Tory rebels now? "When the walls

The power steering team

Tony Blair has set up a strategy committee of half a dozen ministers to direct and plan the Government's programme (Peter Riddell writes).

This inner group, which may become more important than the full 22-strong Cabinet, will be centred on the "Big Four": Mr Blair, John Prescott, Gordon Brown, and Robin Cook. Other participants will be Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio in the Cabinet Office, Ann Taylor, Leader of the Commons, and Nick Brown, the Chief Whip. Mr Blair's senior advisers, Jonathan Powell and Alastair Campbell, will also attend. Page 2

came crashing down beneath the tidal wave of change, there was no discrimination between them. They were all swept away, rebels and loyalists alike. Of course speak your minds. But realise why you are here: you are here because of the Labour Party for which you fought.

"We have won a historic victory. Now the weight of history is upon our shoulders. Great is the excitement and hope in Britain today. Even greater is our sense of humility and responsibility in not disappointing those hopes."

It was a day of excitement and change at Westminster, with some 260 MPs entering the Commons for the first time. The Tories were trying to come to terms with sitting on the Opposition benches, and everyone appeared to be looking for new offices.

Mr Blair appeared at the prime ministerial Dispatch Box for the first time to congratulate Betty Boothroyd after her formal re-election as Speaker.

Meanwhile John Major called his depleted former Cabinet team to the Shadow Cabinet room to discuss how to handle the business of Opposition.

The seven Cabinet ministers who lost their seats will not be replaced until a new leader is chosen next month — Stephen Dorrell and William Hague yesterday joined the list of candidates. Instead, Mr Major will take on extra speaking responsibilities for foreign affairs and defence following the defeats of Malcolm Rifkind and Michael Portillo, while other former junior ministers will be drafted as necessary.

BP man's role, page 2
Cupid, QC, page 8
Labour women, page 10
Leading article, page 21
Letters, page 21



Tony Blair on the steps of Church House, Westminster, yesterday with some of the 101 Labour women MPs

So much joy! So much hairspray!

By Matthew Parris

SO many purple suits! So much hairspray! The mood teetered between a fashionable charity premiere of a star-studded new show and the headmaster's First Day address to new boys and girls.

Or should we say new girls and boys? The pastel and primary colours of the hundred-odd women present turned their male counterparts into backdrops.

"You are all ambassadors!" declared Tony Blair. Four hundred eager faces, gathered for this first prime ministerial address to the new Labour MPs, looked up in rapture. All ambassadors? Not in their

widest dreams had they thought Cabinet patronage extended this far.

The occasion was staged at Church House whose circular hall permits journalists to peer over the rim, as into a goldfish bowl. In the bowl, 400 new MPs had milled around, waiting. Cries of "darling!" "well done!" and "I just can't believe it!" surfaced through the hubbub. Grunts and snuffles of a thousand little hugs and mwah! mwah! kisses rose ceilingwards.

Somewhat removed from all this, Tony Benn sat near the back, sucking his cheeks. Dennis Skinner strode in, a man unchanged. In the same jacket, the same tie and the

same jaundiced expression he always wears. Skinner looked adrift: a castaway on a sea of bright eyes, expensive haircuts, Southern accents and soft suiting.

He marched up to the new Cabinet. He began shaking their hands. Had the Beast of Bolsover been tamed?

He had not. Skinner sat down in the seat kept empty for the Chancellor and stayed there, beaming. Everyone looked embarrassed. Jack Straw looked terrified. A hatchet-faced apparition headed him away to an outer circle, not far from Barbara Follett, power-dressed creator of New Labour Woman. The irony was delicious.

Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio (did ever so vacant a title belie so occupied a plot?) ambled palely down the aisle. When Mr Mandelson appears, something is about to happen. It was John Prescott was about to happen. Unable to suppress glee, the Deputy Prime Minister belted. Continued on page 2, col 1

Photograph, page 10

Big adventure, page 3

BP chief joins Government

Sir David Simon, one of Britain's top businessmen, has been made Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe. The BP chairman was chosen by the Prime Minister who was keen to bring a business leader into his ministerial team.

Sir David, 57, will work with both Gordon Brown and Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, to push forward Labour plans for the single market and spread flexible Labour markets in Europe. Page 2

Smokers lose ashes in the Long Room

By Adrian Lee

A CENTURY of tradition was extinguished at the home of cricket yesterday when smoking was banned in the Long Room at Lord's.

Since 1890, the world's finest players have emerged from the haze of the Long Room on their way from the dressing rooms to the hallowed pitch. But non-smokers in cricket's exclusive inner sanctum rebelled, claiming that during Test matches when up to 200 men stand shoulder to shoulder, the mix of cigarettes, pipes and cigars was overpowering. On cold days when the windows were closed, the fumes were unbearable.

Led by the Rev Malcolm Gingold, from Woolwich, south east London, the non-smokers yesterday won their battle against the ashes. A postal ballot of the MCC's 18,000 members — all men — produced a resounding vote against smoking.

The ban will take effect next month.

As they arrived for the club's annual meeting yesterday, opponents of a ban, argued that a good strong tobacco in a pipe is as English as, well, Test match day at Lord's. Already,

a curious alliance appeared to be forming between the smoking lobby and those who have campaigned against the admission of women members. "The Long Room is like a pub or anywhere else men gather," said Philip Whiffin, 78, a retired insurance executive from Maidenhead. "I have never known it to be objectionable. The ceilings are very high. If someone wants to smoke, why the Hell not? There are already non smoking areas in the ground. Why should they change it any more than they should allow women members?"

"I don't smoke but I believe in the freedom to do so," said Ralph Phillips, 31. "Is the MCC going to become politically correct or remain something special. You don't even notice the smoke. The idea of marching someone out of the Long Room with their pipe is ridiculous."

As Mr Gingold spoke at yesterday's meeting there were jeers of "boring, boring" from his opponents. But there was evident support for a ban in the Long Room, from whence MCC members will now have a clearer view.



Tarzan doesn't want to be King of the Jungle - how do we feel about Hague?

Six in fight for the Tory crown

The bid for the Tory leadership moved into top gear when former Welsh Secretary William Hague and former Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell entered the race.

Their declarations brought the number of contenders to six, including former Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke, 1995 leadership challenger John Redwood, former Home Secretary Michael Howard and former Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley.

Mr Lilley won the backing of former Education and Employment Secretary Gillian Shephard. Page 11

SBS marines held in £10m drug case

By Michael Evans and Stewart Tendler

A ROYAL MARINE attached to the Special Boat Service, the Navy's equivalent of the SAS, was arrested as the elite squad's headquarters yesterday and charged with taking part in a £10 million cannabis smuggling ring.

A second serving Marine attached to the SBS was being brought back to Britain under arrest after Customs officers, supported by armed marines, boarded a motor-vessel, the 280-ton *Simon de Danser*, 100 miles off Lisbon.

A former marine who had served with the SBS, a former commando and two former soldiers were also arrested.

Five men will appear in court before magistrates in Plymouth today.

The arrests come after a year's investigation by Customs officers and detectives across Europe, and it is the first time that serving special forces personnel have been linked to allegations of major drug trafficking.

The operation to board the motor-vessel is understood to have been carried out by SBS men, marines from 42 Commando and a Royal Navy frigate. Two other Britons, a

Frenchman and a Turk have also been arrested.

The SBS is an elite unit of about 200 men who are hand-picked to go on secret operations. Only 30 per cent of those selected for training complete the course.

They are trained to swim a long way under water, to navigate any type of craft, parachute, blow up bridges and use cameras that "the average civilian never sees".

One of the risky roles of the SBS is to be infiltrated ashore into enemy-occupied territory to carry out reconnaissance operations prior to an amphibious landing. The SBS played a significant role in the Falklands War in 1982.

In the Gulf War in 1991, SBS marines carried out sabotage operations behind Iraqi lines, including destroying crucial fibre optic communications cables linking Baghdad with the Iraqi forces in Kuwait.

In Operation Maud, RAF Chinook helicopters flew 40 SBS men to a spot 40 miles south of Baghdad. Using electronic detectors, they found the heavily insulated cables buried well below the surface, and blew them up.

Exclusive
Floppy Found Dead!

For the full story turn to page 5.

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TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORDS 24, 48

LETTERS 21
OBITUARIES 23
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 20

ARTS 33-35
CHESS & BRIDGE 45
COURT & SOCIAL 22

SPORT 42-46, 48
BODY & MIND 18
BOOKS 36, 37



WPC Alice Collins

WPC hit by IRA sniper is back home

By NICHOLAS WATT

ALICE COLLINS, the police constable gravely injured after being shot in the back by an IRA sniper in Londonderry last month, was discharged from hospital yesterday.

Friends welcomed Mrs Collins, 46, as she returned to her home with her husband and three children. She underwent six hours of emergency surgery after the shooting on April 10.

Dr James McHaffey, the Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, who was a regular visitor to Mrs Collins's bedside at the Altnagelvin Hospital, said: "Mrs Collins is a woman of great and wonderful courage. She was determined to get better and she developed a wonderful spirit in hospital."

As Mrs Collins returned home yesterday, police in Londonderry arrested three men in connection with the shooting. IRA supporters sent a chilling warning on Tuesday night when they hijacked a van in Belfast and forced the driver to take it to Waterfront Hall, where the Prince of Wales was guest of honour at a gala concert. Soldiers carried out controlled explosions, but no bomb was found.

Girls' Own adventure ends after twins survive sea and sharks

Stowaway sisters hid for two months in tiny rope store

FROM BELINDA SCOTT IN CAIRNS AND ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

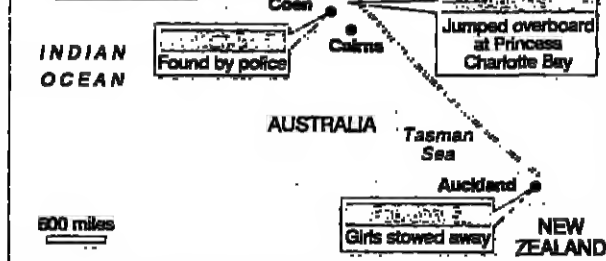


Joanne Ingham: lived on crabs and rainwater

TEENAGE stowaways Sarah and Joanne Ingham hid for two months in a tiny store room on a container ship sailing from New Zealand to Singapore. The 18-year-old twins, wanted for minor offences at home, are believed to have been smuggled on board by crewmen they had befriended in Auckland.

Supplies of food and drink kept them safe in their forepeak refuge, used to store ropes, throughout the voyage to Singapore. But the secret passengers were discovered a day after the vessel left on the return voyage.

The captain ordered the girls to be kept locked in the cook's quarters. They were last seen at 10.30pm on Saturday, April 19, with a crewman, Jaafar bin Mohamed Zan. A few hours later the three jumped from the ship off the Australian coast between Lockhart River and Princess Charlotte Bay. They were reported missing the next day.



their way to civilisation but became lost in the bush. One report said that they had stumbled across a group of Aborigines who took them to the nearest town, Coen, about 50 miles away.

The three appeared reluctant to return. The Malaysian seaman had to be physically detained by an official from the Aboriginal community to prevent him escaping into the bush.

The girls, whose parents emigrated from Leeds to New Zealand in 1971, were being treated for severe sunburn yesterday and held under arrest. They are to be deported to New Zealand.

Sergeant John Moran said: "We are still trying to get to the bottom of all this, but it's a quite astonishing story of survival. It's amazing they didn't get eaten by a shark."

The twins' parents, Bernard and Jeanette, live in Kaiapoi, north of Christchurch. Mr Ingham, 53, said he had always been convinced that the twins were alive because they were so "independent and strong-willed".

"We still love them and we want them back," Mrs Ingham, also 53, said. Last night the couple were still waiting to talk to their daughters, who were undergoing treatment for sunburn and exposure at Cairns Hospital. Police and immigration officials were waiting to question the sisters further.

The girls did not live at home and had been working in Nelson, about four hours' drive from Christchurch, until their disappearance. "They did some silly things and had some funny ideas on things, but they were not bad people and weren't criminals," Mr Ingham said.



Sarah Ingham in Cairns yesterday after being found in the bush by Aborigines

Panorama put to flight by Essex girls

By CAROL MIDGLEY MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PANORAMA, the BBC's flagship current affairs programme, is being moved from the prime-time slot it has occupied for 12 years to make way for the popular sitcom *Birds of a Feather*.

In an effort to "beef up" Monday night viewing, the BBC has decided to put a mass appeal show in the 9.30pm slot, directly after the *Nine O'Clock News*, to compete with ITV drama.

The comedy series, which focuses on the lives of two Essex girls Sharon and Tracey and stars Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson, is one of the most successful light entertainment shows on television.

Panorama, which has run since 1953, will start half an hour later at 10pm from June 2 to compete with ITV's *News at Ten*.

Programmers denied that the move was a demotion for *Panorama* or that it was losing viewers but was merely to "strengthen the overall mix" of the Monday night schedule. The programme last year averaged 4.3 million viewers a week and achieved a 20 per cent audience share.

Mark Thompson, controller of BBC2 and acting controller of BBC1, said: "We want to strengthen and broaden BBC's Monday night line-up. *Panorama* has a well-earned reputation for powerful and highly relevant journalism. Both it and the *Nine O'Clock News* should benefit from these changes."

Steve Hewlett, editor of *Panorama*, said: "Other factual programmes have done well when they have moved to this time. I see it as an opportunity for *Panorama* to reach a bigger share of the audience, many of whom currently switch over to watch us at 10pm having missed most of the programme."

Benn case man 'given choice of bribe or death'

By RICHARD DUCE

RAYMOND SULLIVAN was offered the choice of accepting £100,000 to drop assault charges against the boxer Nigel Benn or becoming the target of a contract killer, a jury was told yesterday.

Mr Sullivan, a former close friend of the boxer, said the offer was made two weeks before Mr Benn's trial began on Tuesday at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court.

Mr Sullivan, 33, from east London, is the main prosecution witness against Mr Benn, who is alleged to have carried out an unprovoked attack on him with a glass ashtray at a Mayfair nightclub in September. Mr Sullivan needed 105 stitches to his nose, which he described as being split open "like a pair of curtains".

Trevor Burke, for the defence, asked Mr Sullivan if he had let it be known that he was prepared to drop charges against the boxer if he was paid £100,000. Mr Sullivan, who runs a rickety sales business, told the jury that the claim was ridiculous. He said: "Someone suggested to me I could get £100,000 if I were to drop the charges. If not, a person would take a contract out on my life."

He denied trying to frame Mr Benn for the attack by persuading witnesses to come forward once he had failed in a civil action to claim £50,000 damages from Mr Benn for his injuries.

Mr Sullivan said he had known Mr Benn for ten years and the pair had once been "like brothers". But they fell out after Mr Benn discovered Mr Sullivan had tried to "chat up" the boxer's girlfriend. "He hated me, I suppose," said Mr

Sullivan. Mr Burke suggested the men had fallen out because Mr Sullivan was convicted of drugs dealing and Mr Benn did not approve.

The court was told that Mr Sullivan had informed police of the death threat and that Mr Benn had been questioned about the alleged £20,000 contract. Mr Sullivan denied he had made up a version of events at Legends Night Club in an attempt to extract money from Mr Benn as he prepared for a world title fight last November.

Under cross-examination from Trevor Burke, for Mr Benn, Mr Sullivan said he arranged for photographs of his injuries to be taken by the surgeon who stitched his nose. Through an agent, Mr Sullivan sold the photographs for £10,000 to *The Sun*, which carried a front page article with the headline "Benn did this to me".

Mr Sullivan said: "All I wanted to do was get a picture in the paper because everyone was denying it [the assault]. I just wanted people to know what he had done to me. I was frightened. Had he won [the world title fight], the implications would have been magnified."

Mr Sullivan admitted that, although he told police that he had not seen who attacked him, he had initiated a civil action against Mr Benn in an attempt to get £50,000 compensation for his injuries.

Mr Benn from Beckenham, Kent, denies wounding Mr Sullivan with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. He also denies a lesser alternative charge of unlawful wounding. The case continues today.

Detention for 17st boy who led rape of tourist

By LIN JENKINS

THE 17-stone ringleader of a teenage gang that raped an Austrian tourist and threw her into a canal to drown after an hour-long attack was sentenced to 12 years detention yesterday.

Adrian Henry, 14, was the last of seven gang members to be jailed for the attack on the body of a canal in King's Cross, London. Judge Verney, the Recorder of London, told Henry that he had shown his victim no mercy and he could expect none to be shown to him.

After sentencing, Detective Sergeant Keith Manktelow, who led the inquiry, said he recognised the danger Henry posed. "That boy is going to be a serial something," he said. It emerged that Henry had been beyond the control of his mother and social workers and had broken curfew from a children's home on the night of the attack.

Henry, who is 6ft 2in and called Congo by gang members, showed no emotion as he was sentenced at the Old Bailey. He sauntered casually from the court as he began his journey to Glenhorne Young Offenders' Institute.

The judge was it was particularly worrying that Henry, who had changed his plea to guilty only as the trial was due to start, had no realisation of the awfulness of what he had done but maintained the first act of intercourse was with consent. "Having heard her evidence I am absolutely certain that what you did was rape and that you were the first to do it."

He said Henry chanted: "Now the party is going to start," as the 32-year-old mother-of-two was dragged to a canal side, lifted up and stripped. "How you can possi-

bly imagine, if you do, that a woman who has been so treated was agreeing to have sexual intercourse with you is beyond understanding."

Henry, born in Britain of Afro-Caribbean parents, was in the care of Islington social services, living in a children's home and on bail for mugging offences when he took part in the rape. At Beatrice House, the privately run children's home in Finsbury Park where he had been placed five months earlier, records show he repeatedly arrived back as late as Sam.

Police had cautioned him for his first offence of carrying an offensive weapon. When he was on remand in secure accommodation awaiting trial for three street robberies he set



Henry: destined to be a "serial something"

fire to his room. His mother, a former nursery nurse, lost control of him after her marriage to a rail worker collapsed eight years ago and she developed multiple sclerosis. Henry was once a promising basketball player but now, in the view of police and social workers, he was out of control and destined for a life in the penal system.

The other gang members were sentenced on April 18 to between 10 and 12 years for their part in the attack. Six pleaded guilty and one, the youngest, was convicted after a trial in which the victim travelled to England to give evidence.

Her former husband was in court yesterday for the sentencing. He has blamed his reaction to the rape for their divorce although his wife said it was the final straw in their collapse of their relationship.

Michael Cogan, for the defence, said Henry lived in a fantasy world, struggling to live up to the image created by his large size at such a young age. He said he idolised the father who had left his mother eight years ago.

The judge ordered that Henry remain under supervision for the whole period of the sentence. He also lifted an order banning identification of two of the three of those previously sentenced because a pending trial for robbing a tourist at knifepoint was not going to continue. The third youth still faced other charges.

They were Calville Angol, 18, the eldest of the gang. He had been sentenced to 11 years. The other was Timothy Davies, 17, who lived in Clerkenwell with his Venezuelan mother and sister. He was sentenced to 11 years.

Suicide woman's threat to rescuers

By TIM JONES

A FORMER headmistress who killed herself because of failing health left a note threatening to sue anyone who successfully revived her.

Gertrude Haynes, 81, an inquest was told, hung the note around her neck before taking an overdose of sleeping pills and placing a bag over her head. But in spite of her final request, Eugene Clancy, a paramedic, battled in vain to save her life. His failed attempt to resuscitate Miss Haynes was praised by Dr Richard Whittington, the Birmingham city coroner.

He said such notices should not prevent medical staff seeking to revive people who had attempted suicide.

Miss Haynes, whose body was found at her bungalow in Bourneville, had always promised to take her own life if her health began to fail, the inquest was told. A copy of *The Final Edit*, which details ways in which people can end their lives, was found in her home.

Her friend, Deirdre Farthing, said Miss Haynes had become frustrated at getting tired. "She made no secret of wanting to end her life if her health failed." But Miss Haynes had remained active and kept a clean, well ordered house and enjoyed gardening.

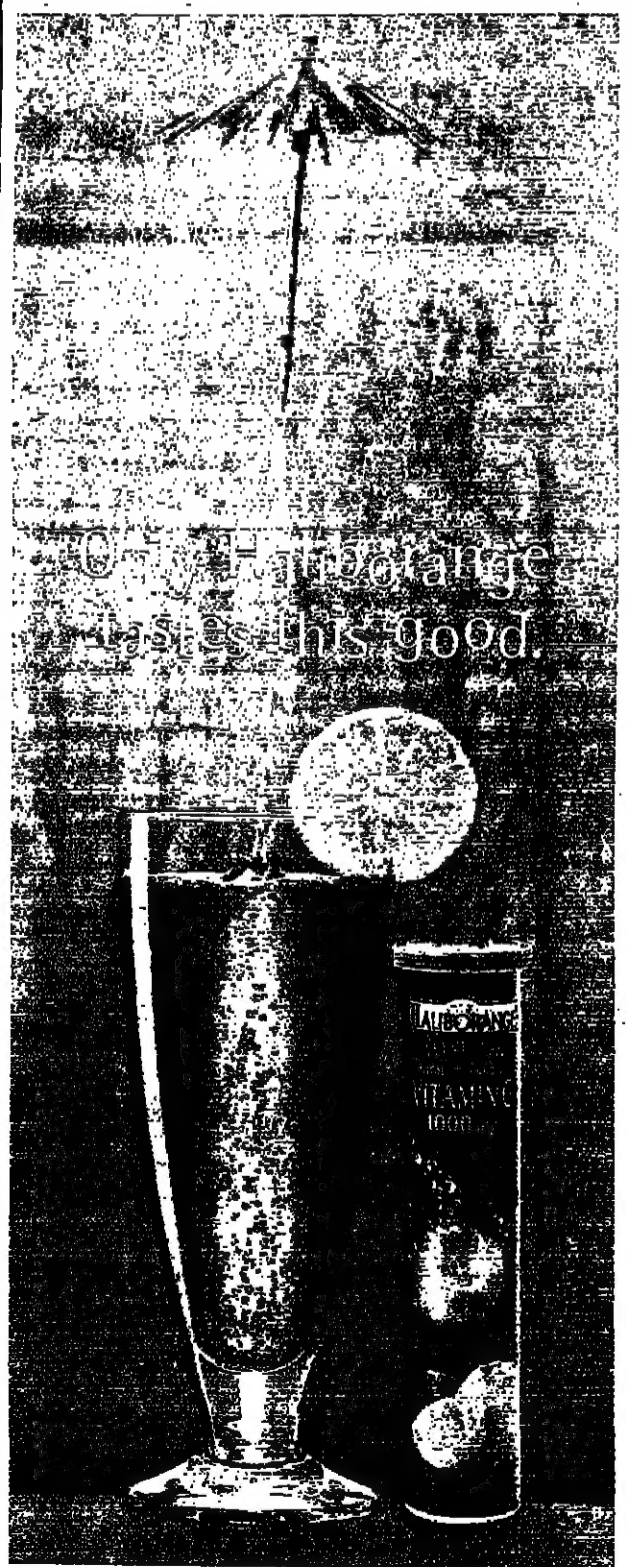
Before her death, Miss Haynes was a well known figure at the local museum, where her books on growing up in Birmingham, written as Lita Haynes, were sold.

Dr Whittington said Miss Haynes had demonstrated a long and clear intention to take her own life in certain circumstances. "She was determined to maintain her standards but this was becoming too much for her."

But people who believed they could prevent treatment by putting notices around themselves were wrong.

After the verdict of suicide, Meridith MacArdale, of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, said that seriously ill people had the right to reject medicines designed simply to keep them alive.

Steve Evans, of the West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "If a conscious person makes a specific request not to have medical assistance then we have to acknowledge that request. But if someone is unconscious then the paramedics will do what they are trained to do and save lives."



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Cambridge club disbanded after drunken spree

By DAVID CHARTER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A COLLEGE club at Cambridge University has been disbanded in disgrace after its annual dinner descended into drunken excess.

The all-male Griffins club, which was founded to celebrate sporting excellence, may be allowed to reform only if women are admitted to membership, to help curb further "blokey" excesses.

The club for sportsmen at Downing College was banned after members were thrown out of the Royal Cambridge Hotel. They were accused of

harassing female staff, throwing food, and vomiting on the table after drinking bottles of wine at one go.

One postgraduate was sent down, a student was rusticated for a year, and the other members have been asked to leave their rooms in the college.

Professor David King, Master of the college, said: "The gentlemen-only concept dates back from a time when all-male colleges existed, but I feel that the club should reflect the present situation. The Griffins not only excluded women, they've excluded sportsmen of their own choosing."

Jon Dymond, student president of Downing College, said: "It will be re-

established to fulfil the original spirit of the Griffins which was to recognise sporting excellence. The idea is to get away from this blokey, beer-swilling image and put it back to the way it was supposed to be. That sort of behaviour was unacceptable to the college."

Mr Dymond, who is the captain of another college drinking society, blamed the presence of old boys for the bad behaviour. "The punishments were severe but those responsible did a lot of damage," he said.

It cost the Royal Cambridge Hotel about £750 to clean the carpet, the curtains and wash the tablecloths. A hotel employee told *Varsity*, the stu-

dent newspaper, that one member of staff had to have his suit replaced.

The Griffins club dates back to the turn of the century. Downing has a strong reputation as a sporting college and by tradition the election to membership involved having achieved some sporting success, usually at rugby, rowing or football. But in recent years, membership, while essentially sporting, has become wider.

Some students were said to have behaved properly at the hotel but the Downing College disciplinary committee later interviewed the 19 undergraduates present and punished them all.

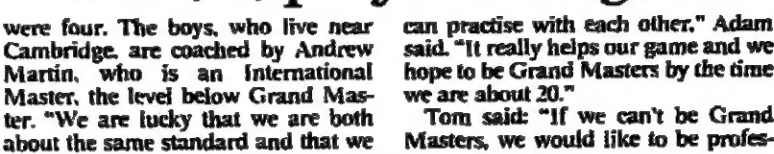
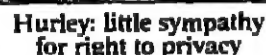
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By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT



Hurley: little sympathy for right to privacy

The BSC came into being on April 1 after the merger of the Broadcasting Standards Council and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission. Its privacy report, *Regulating for Changing Values*, found that many parents saw television as anti-authority and encouraging bad behaviour, such as swearing. It said viewers and listeners would like to be tolerant, but believed broadcasters should be regulated for the common good.



By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

Nick Kenyon, the director of the Proms and Controller of Radio 3, is also involving the television sports presenter Desmond Lynam in an accompanying CD to mark this year's season. Celebrities ranging from the actress Amanda Redman to Dame Edna Everage choose their

He said there would be a considerable number of pre-

BY ERIC REGULY

The scheme, which will give viewers access to services including home banking, the Internet and e-mail, will be available to the 3.5 million people who subscribe to BSkyB's satellite services. BTB plans to offer the same package to the 2 million customers of cable television and the new

ic games companies, for example, may charge viewers a small fee to download game software into the set-top box.

Colin Riley has been commissioned by Swindon council to write a symphony that incorporates the noise of passing trains. The Bournemouth Sinfonietta premieres the piece in June at an open-air concert near the town's station.

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High-tech angling is banned as too fishy

By STEWART TENDLER AND AUDREY MAGES

ANGLERS have been banned from using high-tech fish-finders after a competitor in a fishing match was discovered sitting on a river bank with a miniature echo-sounder by his side.

Roger Mortimer netted 374 roach, tench and perch using the device, which dangled from a pole into the water in front of his seat. A display by his side alerted him to the movements of quarry in the River Glen in Lincolnshire and Mr Mortimer cast his bait among them.

The technique won him fourth place and £60 in a local competition, but the National Angling Federation and the Angling Times, which run the majority of coarse fishing competitions in this country, have since banned such devices.

The National Park in Killarney, Co Kerry, has also banned the equipment for unfairly tracking down half a million brown trout and salmon in three lakes. Fishing experts forecast that many other stillwater owners in Britain will follow suit, amid concern that fish stocks will be rapidly depleted if the fish-finding equipment becomes more popular.

The best equipment, which costs more than £350, can report not only the presence of fish but their depth and weight. Specimen hunters searching for wild brown

trout in the deep Scottish lochs have used the fish-finders to catch monsters of more than 10lb.

In Ireland, Chris Flynn, assistant director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, said that the ban on fish-finders was necessary to protect the lakes from over-fishing. He said: "Fishermen have to compete equally with nature if the fish are going to last."

Local fishermen using Lough Leane, Muckross Lake and the Upper Lake in the park welcomed the ban on fish-finders. Michael Hegarty, vice-chairman of Lough Leane Anglers, said: "There is no thrill in their methods, which are very unfair. Most of us go out purely for relaxation and if we catch a few trout, it's a bonus."

However, Gowen & Bradshaw, a Galway company supplying fish-finders to salmon and trout fishermen in the west of Ireland, claimed that the device did little to improve the catch. A spokesman said it helped fishermen to understand the terrain and learn about fish. "It is like having a compass on a hill — it helps you but it won't get you there. You still have to get the fish to open their mouths."

"How are you going to do that with a fish-finder? Lean out the boat and say 'Aah'? You still have to do all the hard work."



Sheep in the snow at Hebden Bridge, west Yorkshire, search for better grazing yesterday. Farmers said that lambs could be at risk if the cold and snow continued (Michael Hornsby writes). After April's warmth and last week's heat, the cold snap has wrecked hopes of a bumper strawberry crop and blasted

Winter's return hits strawberry crop

plants and flowers lured into early bloom. Sub-zero temperatures were recorded in central and southern England on Tuesday night after sleet that day. The London Weather Centre received reports of brief snow flurries. A month

ago, strawberry-growers were forecasting that production would be 40 per cent up on last year. Yesterday, Michael Alley, of the National Summer Fruits Association, said: "The main strawberry crop has been dlobbered. The

later-planted crops should be OK, provided it warms up, but this could still mean we will lose 10 to 15 per cent." Trevor Sims, an adviser at Wisley, the Surrey garden run by the Royal Horticultural Society, said: "Plums are look-

ing dodgy. The crop came into flower early and a lot of the fruit was killed off by the frost in late April. Frosts and freezing nights are not particularly uncommon in May, but they can cause a lot of damage when combined with an early spring which brings plants into early bloom."

Forecast, page 24



Saturday in THE TIMES

Ginny Dougary on novelist Fay Weldon as breadwinner for a 'strange' family of seven children weekend

Combined therapy may kill Aids virus

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW treatments for human immunodeficiency virus may make it possible to cure patients within three years, scientists have said.

Although nobody has received the new treatments for long enough to show that HIV can be eradicated, researchers in America forecast that it should be possible.

So far drugs have been successful only in delaying the progression from HIV to Aids by about eight years. However, new therapies that rely on combinations of the more powerful drugs are proving successful in clearing out the virus, according to a team from the Aaron Diamond Research Center at Rockefeller University, New York.

In a letter to *Nature*, they report on a trial in which the HIV concentration in the patient's blood dropped by 99 per cent. That was followed by a second phase as the virus invaded the cells and multiplied but the number of infected cells continued to fall.

Flowers change genes for Chelsea

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

GENETICALLY modified plants will be on display for the first time at this year's Chelsea Flower Show, although they will look no different from those with a more natural background.

The plants will contain "marker genes" — foreign DNA inserted into the plants to enable scientists to test whether the process of gene transfer is actually working.

Entitled *Mendel's Garden: Past, Present and Future*, the display is being exhibited by the John Innes Centre in Norwich, and named after Gregor Mendel, the Austrian monk whose experiments with peas in the 1860s revealed the basic laws of genetic inheritance.

Ray Mathias, head of science communication and education at the institute, said: "We see the exhibit as a way of informing a wider audience about the science and what progress is being made."

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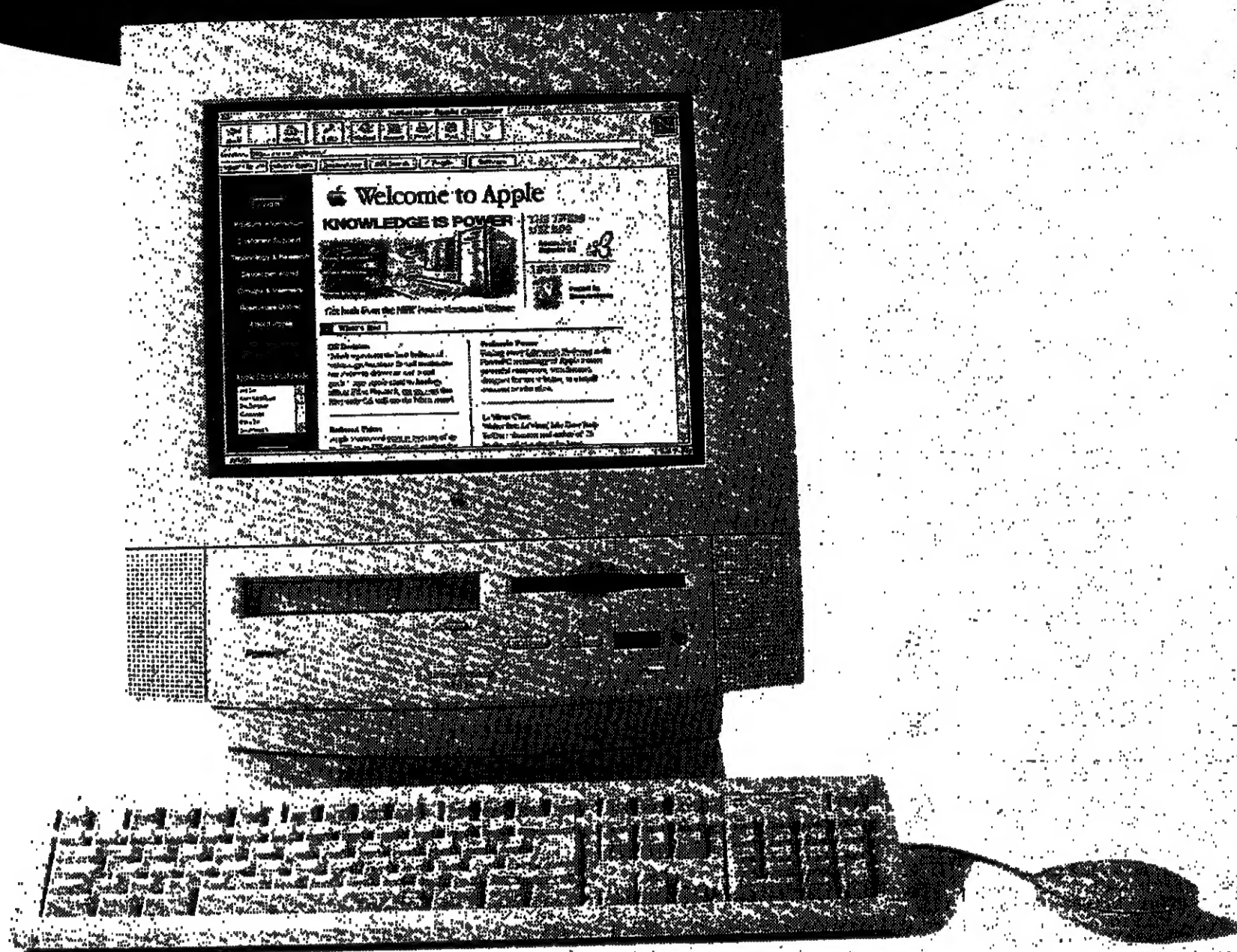
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Grandma: nature's unique design to protect the family

BY IAN MURRAY

SCIENTISTS have realised what parents have always known: that grandmothers are indispensable to bringing up baby. From Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to Grandma, the stout old lady in black immortalised by the cartoonist Giles, grandmothers have been viewed with a mixture of affection and respect. Now their true worth has been recognised by a gerontologist at Manchester University. Thomas Kirkwood suggests that a "grandmother effect" explains the menopause, a condition unique to human beings.

Grandmothers are so essential to human society that natural selection supports women who stop having children of their own so they can become one, he told the Royal Society yesterday.

However, a similar evolutionary "grandfather effect" had not occurred, perhaps because women were always sure of their maternity while men could never be completely certain of their paternity, he said.

"Having children is risky and having a grandmother reduces the risk," Professor Kirkwood told a conference on ageing. "Grandmothers have experience and a valuable social role to play. At a certain point it becomes advantageous for a woman to



Giles's Grandma: designed by evolution

maximise the chances of her own children's survival by ceasing to run the increasing risk of having any more of her own, thus becoming available to help to bring up her own grandchildren. This enhances the chances of her family survival."

The woman's pelvis prevented her child's brain growing fully until after birth, so the help and experience of the grandmother in bringing up the baby was crucial.

Professor Kirkwood said human beings lived longer than most other animals because of the way the brain had evolved to reduce perceived threats to life from the surrounding environment. In a similar way birds and bats

had relatively long lifespans because their ability to fly reduced their risks.

Ageing was not inevitable, he said, but was a trade off for the ability to perpetuate the species by reproduction. Because humans had to expend some of the energy they absorbed in order to have children, they did not have enough left over to maintain the body indefinitely.

"Our genes back in the past evolved to regard our bodies as disposable," he said. The challenge for science was to find ways of improving the quality of life for the elderly so that they could enjoy old age without debilitating effects.

George Martin, of Washington State University in Seattle, said diet could prolong active life. Experiments on rats had shown that cutting their caloric intake by 40 per cent increased their life expectancy by a half.

However genetic changes down the centuries had had a greater effect on extending the life span. Studies of fit elderly people were beginning to discover "successful ageing genes." There was also evidence that some genes which were successful in early life became dangerous in later life.

The genes which made a young man macho and capable of attracting women were the same genes responsible for the most virulent form of prostate cancer.

Civil War castle gains a victory for garden

SUDELEY Castle, in Gloucestershire, which dates from the 15th century, received the Garden of the Year award yesterday.

Sudeley was the home of Catherine Parr, the sixth wife of Henry VIII. She is buried in the chapel. Elizabeth I stayed there three times and Charles I slept there during the Civil War. In 1649 the castle was devastated by Cromwell.

The award, now in its thirteenth year, is given by Christie's and the Historic Houses Association to a garden recognised as outstanding for its horticultural and public interest. It was presented to Lady Ashcombe, who has run Sudeley since the death of her first husband in 1972, and to her son, Henry Dent-Brocklehurst. The presentation was by Christopher Balfour, chairman of Christie's Europe, and William Proby, of the association.

Mr Dent-Brocklehurst, a friend of Elizabeth Hurley and her boyfriend Hugh Grant, was accompanied yesterday by his girlfriend Lili Maltese, an American model. The couple plan to settle at Sudeley, where Mr Dent-Brocklehurst will run the estate.

The gardens, which combine ancient and modern, are largely the vision of two women - Emma Dent (née Brocklehurst), who inherited Sudeley with her husband in 1855, and Lady Ashcombe.



Henry Dent-Brocklehurst and his girlfriend Lili Maltese at Sudeley yesterday

Workers in £150,000 fiddles will not be fired

BY PAUL WILKINSON

NEARLY 80 council workers caught fiddling almost £150,000 from their employer have escaped prosecution. One woman member of staff at Sheffield City Council claimed sickness and holiday pay while in prison. Many others fraudulently claimed housing benefit.

Sheffield is so short of cash that it is considering up to 100 redundancies. Peter Moore, the opposition Liberal Democrat leader on the Labour-controlled authority, said: "Honest council workers feel it is wrong that their jobs could be on the line through redundancy while people who have committed fraud keep their jobs."

An auditors' report disclosed in March that 79 workers were involved in the loss of more than £145,000. The council did not think the incidents were serious enough to warrant sacking, except in two cases involving £19,000 and £15,000.

Malcolm Newman, the city treasurer, said that the council had decided against prosecution on advice from the police, who had taken the view that if the frauds were not considered serious enough to warrant sacking, the Crown Prosecution Service was unlikely to prosecute.

A council spokesman said that a revised code of conduct for employees and a procedure for investigating theft, fraud and corruption had been implemented.

How to lose weight: stop fighting over women

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

STONE AGE man resembled a weightlifter and was 12 per cent heavier than the average modern human being, a study has shown.

A team at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore analysed 163 fossils and bones dating from more than two million years ago. The findings, published in *Nature*, indicate that ancient man underwent large changes in body bulk.

John Kappelman, of the University of Texas, also writing in *Nature*, says it is likely that ancient man had a bulkier body because so much of his time was spent competing for females.

Modern human beings weigh, on average, 58.7 kg. In the early Pleistocene, between 1.2 million and 1.8 million years ago, man's ancestors weighed about 61.8 kg. By the early late part of this period, between 100,000 and 150,000 years ago, he had an average weight of 67.7 kg.

The Baltimore study, led by Christopher Ruff, also studied fossils of Neanderthal man living between 36,000 and 75,000 years ago. He weighed an average of 76 kg, or nearly 30 per cent more than modern man.

Brain study shows why sleep keeps us sweet

BY OUR TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS may have unravelled why new parents and other people deprived of sleep become irritable and anti-social. Parts of the brain that deal with emotion and mood need more rest and so feel the lack of sleep more keenly, researchers believe.

The findings, by a team at the University of Liege, Belgium, have come from a study in which the brains of eight men were scanned while they were asleep. The scanner showed blood flow to the various parts of the brain.

The researchers found that some areas remained reasonably active during sleep while others became almost dormant. The most inactive regions were in the orbitofrontal and the anterior cingulate parts of the cortex. These are areas linked to emotion, behaviour and social interaction. Previous studies have shown that, when people are awake, these areas are among the most active.

Mircea Steriade, a neurophysiologist at Laval University, Quebec, says in *New Scientist*: "Perhaps those parts of the brain that are quite important during the waking state need more rest during sleep."

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Chambers matchmaker and an old friend answer Blair's call to take on senior positions in the law

Cupid, QC, will be at heart of legal reforms

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE new Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, was sworn in with tradition, pomp and ceremony at the Royal Courts of Justice yesterday.

Flanked by the Lord Chief Justice and Master of the Rolls in ceremonial dress, Lord Irvine, 56, a close friend of the Blair family, took the oath of loyalty before a court packed with judges, lawyers, members of his chambers and family. With Court of Appeal judges in black and gold silk robes and the High Court judges in ermine and red, Lord Irvine — one of the most influential members of the Cabinet — promised to "be faithful and to bear true allegiance" to the Queen and her successors. He also promised to "do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of this realm, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will".

Lord Irvine's salary of £140,000 makes him the highest-paid member of the Cabinet after the Prime Minister. Not only will he play a crucial role in the Government's constitutional reforms, but as a mentor of Mr Blair his influence will be more personal and far-reaching. Lord Irvine

— Derry to his friends — has been a key figure in the Blair family. They met when he took them on as pupils in 1976 at chambers in Crown Office Row, Temple, a year before he founded his own chambers in King's Bench Walk. At their wedding he proposed a toast to the couple, calling himself "Cupid, QC".

His new post makes him Speaker of the House of Lords, head of the judiciary and a minister with a large government department. No speeches were made at what was a strictly ceremonial occasion. Lord Irvine stood at the centre of the Bench between Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, and Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls. The other High Court heads of division, Sir Richard Scott and Sir Stephen Brown, were on either side.

The Lord Chancellor appoints every judge below the level of the Court of Appeal and his advice is usually sought by the Prime Minister on more senior appointments.

Lord Irvine is an advocate of incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law via a Bill of

Rights. He will play the lead part in framing the Bill and in determining the extent of judges' powers. He will be active in the other constitutional reforms: devolution and reform of the House of Lords, where he favours abolishing hereditary peers' voting rights.

Lord Irvine was made a life peer in 1987 by Neil Kinnock after he successfully fought a series of High Court cases for Labour over ousting Militant Tendency supporters from the party. It was more than a reward for Militant-bashing: Mr Kinnock wanted more lawyer-peers and Lord Irvine was brought in as their apparent to Lord Elwyn-Jones, had Labour won in 1987.

Like his predecessor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, he is a Scot — from the same part of the country, Sutherland — and from what he calls "good working-class stock"; his mother was a waitress and his father a roof slater who was active in politics as a shop steward.

Unlike Lord Mackay, his career has been entirely at the English bar, which he entered late at 27 after lecturing at the London School of Economics. He rose swiftly, becoming a QC at 37; for a year, he was the youngest in the country. He has built up a lucrative commercial and public law practice.

Some predict that he will prove less radical than Lord Mackay in making changes to the profession. His reforming zeal is likely to be proven on the wider constitutional front.

The profession believes that he will listen to its concerns on legal aid and civil justice, which he has pledged to review. He has also promised to examine the earnings of the highest-paid QCs on legal aid.

He once said that members of the legal profession were not the best candidates to bid for scarce public funds: "Lawyers don't appreciate how enormously unpopular they are."



Mr Falconer, his wife Marianna and children Rosie, six, Hamish, 11, Rocco, eight, and Johnny, four, with his father and stepmother yesterday

The silk who took a £440,000 cut

The new Solicitor-General saw the opportunity after 23 years at the Bar as too good to miss, Frances Gibb writes

CHARLES FALCONER, QC, the commercial silk appointed by Tony Blair to be Solicitor-General, will be giving up a lucrative commercial law practice worth an estimated £500,000 a year for a peerage and a £60,000 salary.

Mr Falconer, 45, admitted the offer had come as a complete surprise. He had not, he confessed, jumped at the chance initially. "I did take some persuading. But when I thought about it, the job is so exciting, especially at this time when we have a new Labour Government after 18 years and lots of changes happening. I have always been a Labour supporter and having done law for 23 years, this seemed too good an opportunity to miss."

He agreed there would be a financial downside. "But money is not the most important thing and it seemed right I should give up my private practice at this point." Mr

Falconer and his wife Marianna are two of the Blair family's closest friends as well as neighbours in Islington and, like the Blairs, are both barristers.

They are not, however, members of the Blair family's political circle: their connection is that of old friends who go back to Mr Blair's schooldays, as well as through their professional work. The Prime Minister made a speech at Mr Falconer's 40th birthday party and the couple dine frequently at each other's houses.

Yesterday speculation was rife as to whether Mr Falconer had agreed to try the job for a limited term only as a stepping stone to the more

striking thing about him is his charisma — he is amazingly good company and always in a way which demonstrates his cleverness. He is a very magnetic and compelling advocate, and entertaining both in and out of court.

A pop music buff — "he can tell you the flip side of a record that was number two in the charts in 1963" — he married Marianna Hildyard, daughter of the late diplomat Sir D.H.T. Hildyard in 1985. She is a family law barrister specialising in childcare law who does a mix of legal aid and private work. Her income is unlikely to come anywhere near that of her husband's.

They have four children who are being educated privately at an estimated cost of £21,000 a year.

The Prime Minister regards Mr Falconer as one of the brightest brains in the legal profession. They met at a friend's house when Mr

Blair was a schoolboy at Fettes College in Edinburgh. Mr Falconer went to Trinity College, Glenalmond, and then Queen's College, Cambridge. They kept in touch and shared a flat in Wandsworth, south London, in Mr Blair's bachelor days.

Mr Falconer was called to the Bar in 1974 and became a silk in 1991. His career has been entirely at the commercial bar. The Solicitor-General is usually expected to take the lead in some high-profile criminal cases but Mr Falconer would be unlikely to do so.

If his new career does not work out, he should be able to return to practice with ease. Rory McAlpine, a solicitor with the City firm Wilde Sappe, said: "He has a good track record and is well established enough that he could come back. He is now such a glittering name among City firms that he would not be forgotten overnight."



Lord Irvine, right, with Lord Bingham at the Royal Courts of Justice ceremony yesterday

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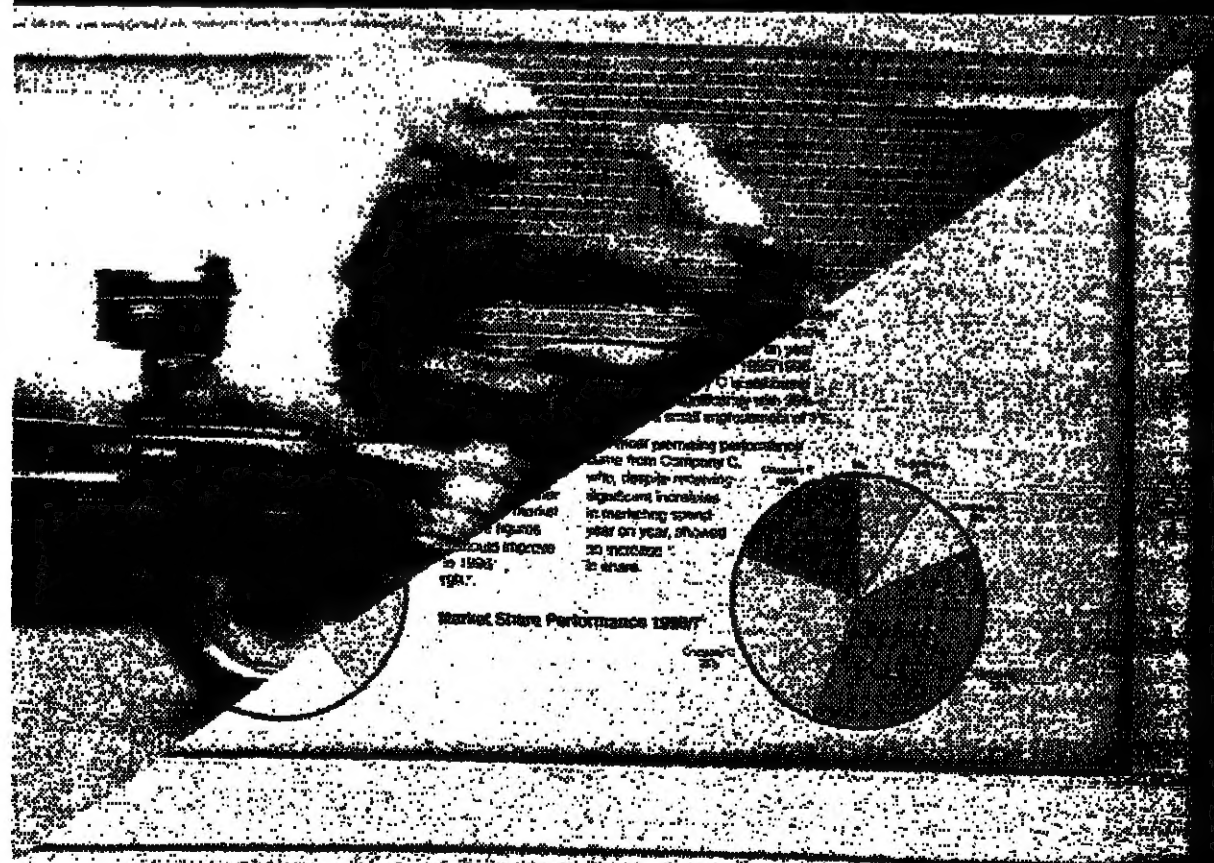
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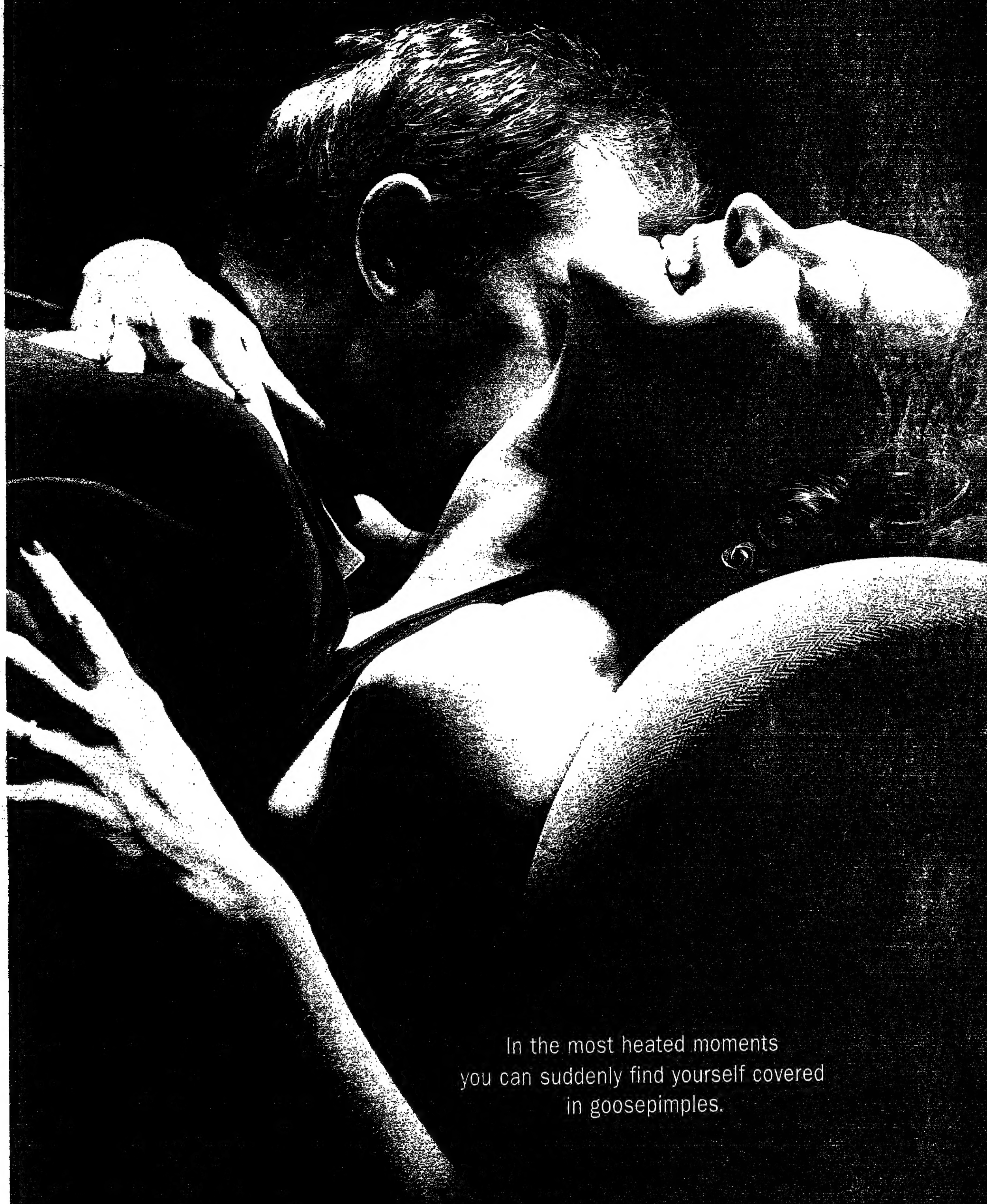
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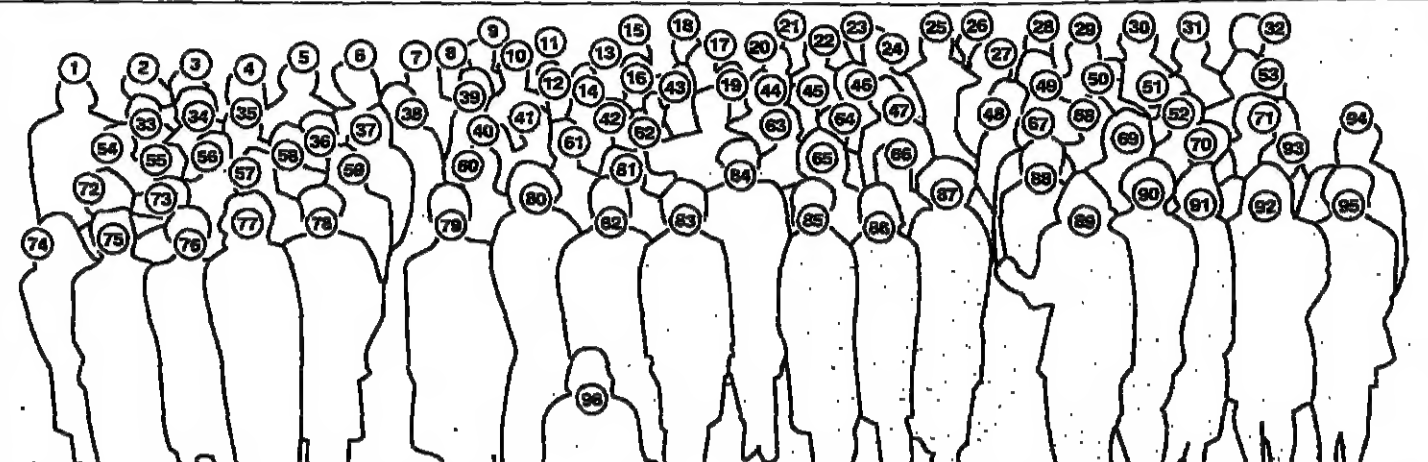
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12
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Who's who in Labour's new force

1 Christine McCallery; 2 Helen Lidell; 3 Bridget Prentice; 4 Alice Mahon; 5 Judith Church; 6 Jackie Lawrence; 7 Joan Ruddock; 8 Ann Clywd; 9 Clare Curtis-Tansley; 10 Estelle Morris; 11 Ann Coffey; 12 Linda Clark; 13 Diane Abbott; 14 Maria Eagle; 15 Hilary Armstrong; 16 Joan Walley; 17 Ruth Kelly; 18 Fiona MacTaggart; 19 Mo Mowlam; 20 Tessa Jowell; 21 Janet Anderson; 22 Helen Brinton; 23 Jane Kennedy; 24 Linda Gilroy; 25 Delia Shipley; 26 Valeria Davey; 27 Betty Williams; 28 Tess Kingham; 29 Gwyneth Dunwoody; 30 Lin Golding; 31 Rosa Winterdon; 32 Ann Cryer; 33 Ann Keen; 34 Audrey Wise; 35 Yvette Cooper; 36 Diana Organ; 37 Candy Atherton; 38 Joyce Quin; 39 Angela Eagle; 40 Angela Smith; 41 Eileen Gordon; 42 Christine Butler; 43 Oona King; 44 Harriet Harman; 45 Barbara Roche; 46 Judy Mallaber; 47 Siobhain McDonagh; 48 Louise Ellman; 49 Joan Humble; 50 Laura Moffat; 51 Karen Buck; 52 Sylvia Heal; 53 Rosemary McKenna; 54 Maria Fyfe; 55 Irene Adams; 56 Jean Corbett; 57 Melanie Johnson; 58 Joan Ryan; 59 Julia Drown; 60 Phyllis Starkey; 61 Helen Jones; 62 Helen Southworth; 63 Geraldine Smith; 64 Hazel Blears; 65 Fiona Jones; 66 Margaret Moran; 67 Christine Russell; 68 Janet Dean; 69 Kelli Mountford; 70 Darl Taylor; 71 Ann McGuire; 72 Jenny Jones; 73 Rachel Squire; 74 Barbara Follett; 75 Dawn Primarolo; 76 Patricia Hewitt; 77 Caroline Flint; 78 Jacqui Smith; 79 Gisela Stuart; 80 Jane Griffiths; 81 Anne Campbell; 82 Linda Fenham; 83 Margaret Beckett; 84 Ann Taylor; 85 Charlotte Atkins; 86 Sally Keeble; 87 Gillian Merron; 88 Elizabeth Blackman; 89 Shona McIsaac; 90 Beverly Hughes; 91 Helen Jackson; 92 Claire Ward; 93 Sandra Osborne; 94 Margaret Hodge; 95 Lorna Fitzsimons; 96 Anne Begg.

The following Labour women MPs were absent: Kate Hoey; Clare Short; Glenda Jackson; Lynne Jones; Julie Morgan.



Blair salutes 101 women

By JAMES LANDALE
AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

TONY BLAIR showed off his new army of women MPs yesterday outside Church House in Westminster after speaking to them and their male colleagues at the first meeting of the new Parliamentary Labour Party.

In all 96 of Labour's 101 women MPs posed for an historic photograph with the Prime Minister.

The Tories have just 13 women on the Opposition benches. But they and women from other parties bring the total in the Commons to 120,

compared with 63 in the last Parliament. They comprise 18 per cent of the 659 MPs.

Many of the Labour women benefited from the party's women-only shortlists policy before it was ruled illegal 18 months ago. But many others have been selected since then entirely on their own merits.

The new influx of women hope to bring a new consensual style of politics to Westminster, which they see as still being dominated by a male, confrontational approach.

While congratulating Betty Boothroyd on her re-election as Speaker, Mr Blair said: "I am delighted that the lead that

you demonstrated five years ago in becoming the first woman Speaker has brought us to a point today where there are more women than ever before sitting in this House."

One woman has made her own mark on history by becoming the first MP to use a wheelchair in the Chamber. Anne Begg, 41, a former Disabled Scot of the Year, beat the former Scottish Office minister Raymond Robertson to take Aberdeen South.

Miss Begg, 41, has been confined to a wheelchair for 13 years after contracting Gaucher's cell disease, a bone-softening condition.

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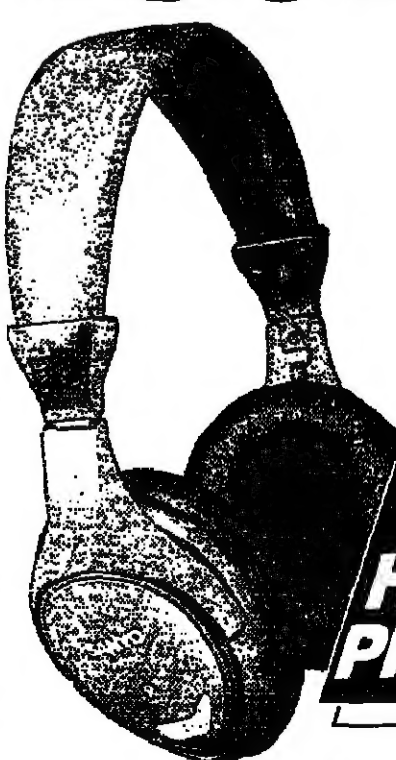
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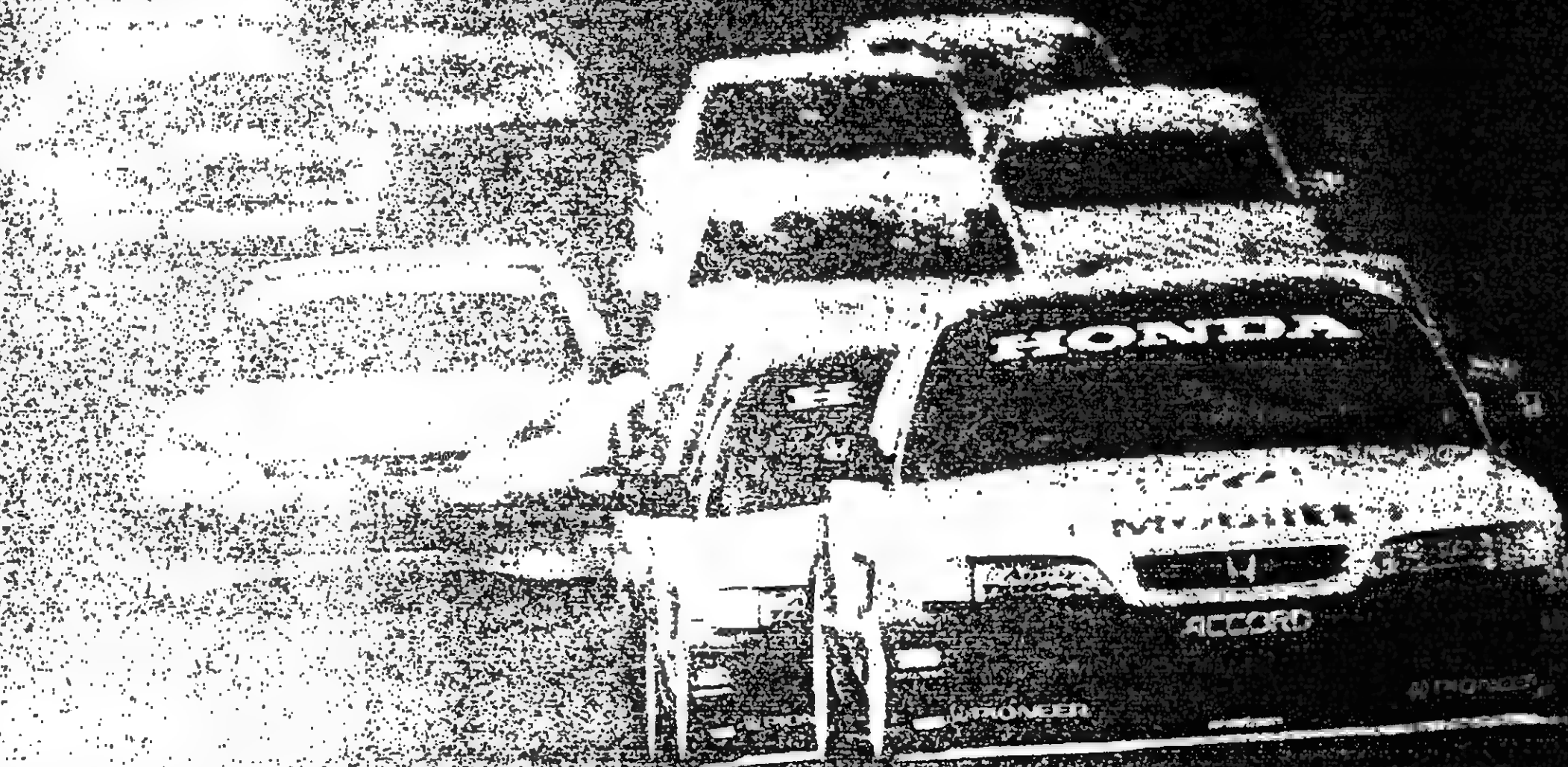
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Bosnian Serb found guilty of crimes against humanity

FROM ANTHONY LOYD
IN THE HAGUE

IN A landmark ruling a year to the day after its conception, the first international war crimes trial since the end of the Second World War found Dusan Tadic, a 41-year-old Bosnian Serb, guilty of crimes against humanity on 11 counts of persecution and beatings.

The charges include torture and the 1992 killing of two Muslim policemen in the Prijedor district of northwest Bosnia. However, Tadic was cleared on a further 20 counts, including nine of murder and 11 of "grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions".

Judge Richard Goldstone, formerly Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, said: "I feel very satisfied that no question can be raised as to the fairness of the trial."

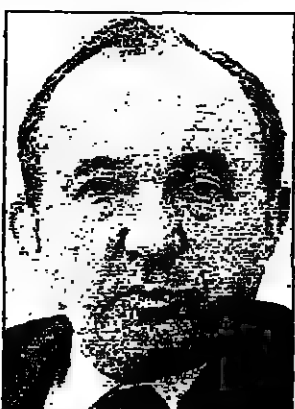
There is the feeling it is a historic day: the first time in 50 years an international court has found someone guilty of crimes against humanity.

Tadic, a former café proprietor and a part-time karate

instructor, stood briefly for the verdict, his angular features impassive bar an occasional flicker of the eyebrows. Sentencing will be on July 1, pending possible prosecution and defence appeals.

He had denied every charge throughout, claiming that he was the victim of mistaken identity and an international plot, seeking Serb scapegoats for the war in Bosnia. Although the court totally dismissed his often vague alibis, finding him "untruthful" as to his whereabouts, Nikola Kostic, for the defence, said, immediately after the verdicts that there would be an appeal on all counts, based on new alibi evidence.

The prosecution appeared equally determined to appeal. Among the trial's most contentious aspects was the failure of two of the three-strong panel of judges to agree that the persecution, killing and torture of Muslims and Croats in and around Prijedor in 1992 was part of a conflict of an international nature by which Bosnian Serb troops acted on the behest of Serbia. As a



Goldstone satisfied as to trial's fairness

result, 11 counts against Tadic had to be dropped, as they were deemed non-applicable as breaches of the Geneva convention because they referred to victims of an ethnic, rather than an international, conflict.

The presiding Judge, Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, dissented from that opinion, finding that the Bosnian Serb Army "clearly continued to operate as an integrated and instrumental part of the Serbi-

an war effort". Her view gave the prosecution ground to launch notice of its appeal to challenge the legal standards used to define the protection status of the Geneva Convention.

Although, regarding the case itself, prosecution lawyers will be disappointed that the most serious charges failed, the trial was welcomed by supporters of the tribunal system as having fulfilled its primary aim — that of justice. "Although this is the first trial conducted by the international tribunal and thus has some historic dimension the goal of the trial chamber was always, first and foremost, to provide the accused with the fair trial to which he is entitled," said Judge McDonald, giving the verdict.

Indeed the trial seemed to strive so hard to accommodate Tadic's defence that some conclusions appeared unduly pedantic. Among the charges that caused the most revulsion was one claiming Tadic had been among a group of Serbs who in 1992 forced a Muslim prisoner in the Omarska camp to bite off another Mus-

lim prisoner's testicles. Both died, one as a result of his wound, the other, with two more prisoners, after a subsequent, protracted beating. The court was satisfied that Tadic was present, but could not agree whether the four died as a direct result of that torture session.

Despite the judges' disagreement over Serbia's involvement in the Bosnia war, their finding Tadic guilty of persecution represented the first judicial condemnation of the Bosnian Serbs' "ethnic cleansing policy".

Identified by his nickname "Dusko" time and time again in the courtroom by those former friends and colleagues who in 1992 became his victims, Tadic is small but nevertheless symbolic fry in the tribunal's efforts to fight international lethargy and bring Bosnia's predominantly Serb war criminals to justice.

The first to be handed over to The Hague — he has spent two years in jail — Tadic is one of only eight in custody out of 75 indicted war criminals.

Geoffrey Robertson, page 20



Dusan Tadic adjusts his earphones during his trial which ended yesterday with a mix of guilty and not-guilty verdicts. Both prosecution and defence may appeal

Sarajevo regrets failure to convict on murder charges

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN SARAJEVO

THE Bosnian Government yesterday expressed disappointment that the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal had acquitted Dusan Tadic, who was found guilty of crimes against humanity and torture, on 13 counts of murdering Muslim prisoners.

"Generally, we are disappointed that not all of the charges were accepted, but we are hoping that the punishment will be appropriate with the crimes committed," Mirza Hajric, spokesman for Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian President, said.

Nevertheless, human rights campaigners hailed the judg-

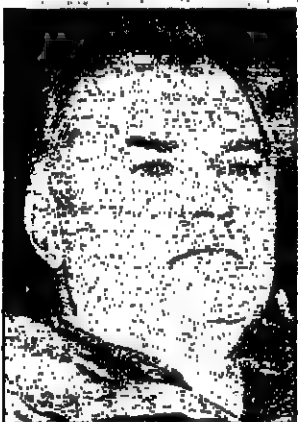
ment against Tadic. "The verdict represents an important benchmark for holding individuals accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity accountable under law," the US-based Human Rights Watch said.

Mr Hajric added: "The verdict that Tadic is guilty of crimes against humanity is a confirmation of the accusations of the Bosnian Government that the Serb leadership, led by former leader Radovan Karadzic and military commander General Ratko Mladic, had organised and been engaged in genocide."

Both Dr Karadzic and General Mladic have been indicted on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity, but remain at large.

The Bosnian Serb News Agency, meanwhile, said the verdict showed Tadic's theoretical guilt as it was not based on solid proof. It said the tribunal was faced with losing its credibility if it convicted Tadic on all counts and stripping itself of its political raison d'être if it acquitted him.

Tadic's brother, Mladen, said his brother was innocent. He said: "It is inconceivable that Dusko [his nickname] was found guilty when he never took part in the war."



Mladic faces charges but remains at large

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Cook pledges co-operation with Europe

Sterile confrontation consigned to the 'Conservative past'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND ROGER BOYES IN BONN

ON HIS inaugural trip abroad as Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook flew to Paris and Bonn yesterday where he proclaimed that a new era in Britain's relations with the rest of Europe, based on active co-operation, rather than sterile confrontation, had dawned.

As a symbol of what he pledged would be the Government's constructive approach to negotiating in Europe, Mr Cook announced an agreement with France and Germany to seek a worldwide ban on landmines.

In France, Mr Cook was received with all the pomp one would expect for the representative of a new, more Euro-friendly Government promising to put an end to divisions between the two countries.

With France in the grip of its own, hotly contested election, Mr Cook was flanked first by the Socialist opposition and then by the Government, both equally anxious to attract some of Labour's reflected electoral glory.

Mr Cook said he hoped his visit to France would mark a fresh start in Anglo-French relations. "Britain wants to be one of the three major players in Europe," he added.

The new British Government "will draw a line under the sterile, negative and fruitless confrontation which was the policy of the previous Government," Mr Cook said. "We want to see Britain be one

of the three leading members of the EU, working together to achieve an outcome in the interests of all our peoples." Later, he expressed the same sentiment word for word in Bonn.

In Paris, the Foreign Secretary said that Britain would stand firm on matters of vital national interest such as "preserving our external border controls against third countries", but added: "We believe we can better secure those British vital interests if we are not fighting the rest of Europe on every issue, as the Conservatives did out of prejudice."

"I am confident that we can achieve more working together than competing against each other, or shouting against each other, as under the previous Government."

The first stop on his one-day tour was for a private meeting with Lionel Jospin, leader of the French Socialist Party, which, polls suggest, is steadily gaining ground on the ruling centre-right coalition in the run-up to the election which will take place in two rounds, on May 25 and June 1.

The Foreign Secretary emphasised Labour's good relations with the French Socialists, but said Britain would work closely with whichever party was in power after the election.

M. Jospin called Tony Blair's victory "a good thing for the British people but also a good

thing for Europe" and described Labour and the Socialists as "sister parties".

At the Foreign Ministry in the Quai d'Orsay, Mr Cook was accorded the full five-star diplomatic treatment: a reception by the Republican Guard resplendent in their blue uniforms and flashing sabres, as well as red carpets and lunch with his opposite number, Hervé de Charette.

A ministry official said that a full honour guard was not usual for a working lunch; nor were red carpets in the pouring rain. The Government had decided to mark Mr Cook's first visit with special fanfare, he said.

After their lunch, Mr Cook and M de Charette gave a joint press conference in the marble grandeur of the Quai d'Orsay lobby. When asked why it was that both sides in the French election should be so keen to adopt the mantle of "Le Blairisme", Mr Cook said: "Everybody wants to be Tony Blair at the moment. That is a tribute to Tony Blair. But it is up to the people of France who they elect."

The landmark agreement, committing all three countries to push for a complete ban, was intended as concrete evidence of the new working relationship between Britain, France and Germany.

Mr Cook also promised a creative British approach to next month's European Union



Robin Cook addresses a news conference in Paris yesterday with Lionel Jospin, the French Socialist leader

summit in Amsterdam. "We want to go to the conference helping to set the direction and not, as the previous Government would have done, merely responding to the proposals of others."

In Bonn too, Mr Cook was not shy about stating the limits to Britain's new friendship with continental Europe.

When Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said that "above all we need a common European currency", Mr Cook made plain that the British Government was concentrating on other economic priorities. On European economic and monetary union, the Foreign Secretary said: "A hard-headed assessment will

be made towards the end of the year."

Mr Cook emphasised to the Germans in turn his commitment to a deal in Amsterdam where European Union states will try to modify the Maastricht treaty and further develop European institutions. "It is our intention to reach an agreement at the inter-governmental conference," he said.

"We go to Amsterdam not with the intention of blocking an agreement. There are many areas where I am confident we can reach an agreement."

"The outcome would be a 'package' good for Britain, good for Germany and good for Europe."

New team to take tougher stance on human rights

BY MICHAEL BUNYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITION

ROBIN COOK has told the Foreign Office that the Government will take a much tougher line than the Conservatives on arms exports, and may halt all weapons deliveries to countries with dubious human rights records, such as Indonesia.

The Foreign Secretary has also instructed diplomats to start urgent discussions with Britain's partners on a worldwide ban on the manufacture and export of landmines. Yesterday Britain made clear that it would join French and German initiatives in banning the use of all anti-personnel mines — a step the past

Conservative Government was reluctant to take. Guidelines will outline new Foreign Office priorities intended to give much greater emphasis to human rights in Britain's dealings with other countries. In opposition Labour called for an oil embargo against Nigeria, and is expected to take a tough stand against General Sani Abacha's military Government in the run-up to the Edinburgh Commonwealth summit in the autumn.

The aim will be to set out Labour's foreign policy principles and priorities. These will emphasise key themes which were trailed in the election manifesto: an effort to engage Britain's European Union

partners in a more co-operative relationship, greater emphasis on human rights, more attention to the global environment and policies supporting Britain's commitments at the Rio earth summit, and a new emphasis on arms control.

Labour will also insist that the Foreign Office does more to promote British trade and commercial interests. Mr Cook is to tell Foreign Office staff that they must do more to persuade public opinion that their work directly benefits Britain and British exports. He will make this message clear to all British ambassadors around the world in a video.

Since the new Government took office, Mr Cook has been involved in

intensive briefing sessions, mapping out his policies to his senior staff. He will also try to change the elitist image of the diplomatic service, looking for new ways to boost the recruitment of women and ethnic minorities, who are currently very poorly represented.

Next week the new Foreign Office team will begin one of the most hectic years in British diplomacy. Mr Cook will see Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, today and travels to Paris on Monday for a meeting of the Western European Union, and then will have an intensive session of European consultations before the informal special EU summit on May 23. Intended

to introduce the Blair Government to Britain's EU partners.

Later this month there will probably be a summit between Russia and Nato in Paris, followed by a North Atlantic Council meeting in Portugal. The EU Amsterdam summit begins on June 16. The Group of Seven will meet in Denver four days later, and at the end of June there will be a UN environment session in New York. Mr Cook will fly to Hong Kong at the end of June for the handover to China, and return for the Nato enlargement summit in Madrid in July. His diary for the rest of the year is just as full, and next year, when Britain takes over the EU presidency, it will be even busier.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Buddhist jailed by Chinese

Beijing: A Tibetan monk has been jailed for six years for colluding with the Dalai Lama in the hunt for the reincarnation of the tenth Panchen Lama. Buddhism's second most senior leader, who died in 1989, The Chinese authorities named their own choice.

China's official Xinhua news agency said a court in Xigaze prefecture had convicted Qazha Qamba Chilai for trying to split the country and leaking state secrets after a trial in camera. (Reuters)

Russian envoy leaving early

Anatoli Adamishin, 62, Russia's ambassador to London, is returning home early for "personal reasons" (Our Foreign Staff writes). He arrived in Britain less than three years ago and was expected to serve for up to five years. Diplomatic sources in Moscow say the frontrunner to replace him is Yuri Fokin, 61, now ambassador to Norway.

Briton escapes

Freetown: Kathy Jones, a British UN peace official, escaped unhurt when Sierra Leone gunmen ambushed a UN car. They wounded Robert Painter, an American, and killed the driver. (Reuters)

Population rise

Washington: The world's population will swell to 6.1 billion by 2000 from its current 5.8 billion, and jump to 6.8 billion by 2025, according to a Population Reference Bureau report. (AFP)

Ambush deaths

Agartala: Members of the separatist National Liberation Front of Tripura ambushed a security patrol in northeastern India, shooting dead 18 paramilitary soldiers and a policeman. (Reuters)

Down at heel

Manila: Imelda Marcos, the former Philippines First Lady noted for her many shoes and extravagant lifestyle, has been declared the poorest member of Congress, with a net debt of about £680,000. (AP)



Abacha: Likely to face tough line from London

Venice in peril as tides push water level to 75-year high

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

FLOOD waters in Venice rose to their highest spring level for 75 years yesterday, raising fears that the city is sinking at an increasing rate. Sirens sounded as the water rose to a record 49 in above sea level, with tourists and residents splashing through water 1½ ft deep in St Mark's Square.

Lady Clarke, president of the Venice in Peril Fund, who lives near the Grand Canal, said the flooding was "extremely unusual for May". Officials confirmed that it was the worst since 1923. Duckboards which had been put away after the winter were

hastily taken out of storage. Meteorologists said the unseasonal floods were partly due to the heavy rain in northern Italy over the past few days. But studies by Venice in Peril and Italian environmental agencies show the high waters have become more frequent because of man-made causes, including a channel cut through the lagoon for oil tankers, which has upset the hydrological balance of the lagoon, and extraction of water from artesian basins, which has aggravated subsidence.

The Italian Government is expected to make a preliminary decision this weekend on whether to allow oil and gas

drilling in the lagoon, a project which has aroused further international alarm.

Venice has suffered periodic flooding since it was built on wooden piles buried deep in the lagoon in the 8th century. But whereas high tides used to occur every three or four years, and usually in the autumn, they now threaten the city several times a year. Last November, the thirtieth anniversary of the disastrous floods of 1966, the water reached 52 in.

City authorities, who are preparing for celebrations next week marking the 200th anniversary of the end of the Venetian Republic, have increased flood defences. But a long-planned tidal barrier at the mouth of the lagoon has still not been built, partly because of environmental objections but also because of bureaucratic obstacles and alleged corruption over engineering contracts.

Letters, page 21

Catholics advised to enjoy life

Rome: The Roman Catholic Church suffers from a "sackcloth and ashes" image and should adopt a more Epicurean "eat, drink and be merry" attitude to life, according to a leading theologian (Richard Owen writes).

Mgr Giordano Muraro, the "resident theologian" on *Famiglia Cristiana*, Italy's most widely read Catholic magazine, said there was "nothing un-Christian about the pursuit of pleasure". Monsignor Muraro, a Dominican priest, told readers there was no scriptural authority for the often "excessively gloomy and lachrymose" Roman Catholic approach to life's pleasures, which he listed as "eating, drinking, sex, dancing and playing". He said: "It is not written anywhere that suffering is a pre-condition for entering Paradise."

The magazine has increasingly incurred the wrath of the Vatican by advocating liberal views.

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JAEGER



Intelligence officials fear war with neighbours and Palestinian uprising

Israeli security chiefs paint Netanyahu a gloomy picture

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN TEL AVIV

THE Israeli Government has been presented with one of its gloomiest reviews in many years on prospects for peace in the Middle East. Among the predictions are that by 2000 Iran will have missiles capable of hitting Israel and that the conflict with the Palestinians could deteriorate further.

Information obtained by *The Times* shows that Israel's security establishment believes fears of war are fast replacing hopes of peace. Among its immediate recommendations are a special expenditure of 50 million shekels (£10 million) to upgrade the supply of gas masks to the civilian population.

Key elements of the assessment presented to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, include these points, said to be based on hard, professional intelligence rather than surmise or propaganda:



Netanyahu: long-term security analysis

□ Iran is in the process of manufacturing rockets described as cousins of the North Korean No Dong 1, with a range of 800 miles, the first prototype of which could be

launched within two years. They will be capable of hitting targets in Israel and may also be used against Saudi Arabia. Israeli experts believe Iran is aiming for an eventual takeover of Saudi oilfields.

□ Whoever takes over from President Rafsanjani of Iran, after elections on May 23, is expected to steer Tehran along a more revolutionary international track. As well as chemical and biological warfare, Iranian missiles could have self-supplied nuclear capability within ten years — or in less time if plutonium or highly enriched uranium is obtained on the global black market.

□ Iran will continue beefing up supplies to the Hezbollah (Party of God) guerrillas fighting a low-intensity conflict with Israel in occupied southern Lebanon.

In the past year, 40 Iranian jumbo jets arrived in Damascus, the Syrian capital, carrying

ing weaponry for Hezbollah. The group is also mounting attacks on Jewish targets abroad.

□ New weapons that could seriously complicate the present conflict along Israel's northern border include "long-range" Katyushas capable of reaching the outskirts of Haifa, and Stinger shoulder-held anti-aircraft missiles.

These come from American supplies originally sent to Mujahidin fighters in Afghanistan. A number have been fired in Lebanon but have failed for reasons unknown. Their use has been so far unpublished.

□ Syria has embarked on what is classified as a national project involving large sums of money on manufacturing chemical weapons with Russian help, including deadly VX nerve gas.

These gases enter through the pores of the skin rather than through inhalation.

□ Since 1994, President Assad

has ordered Syrian forces to adopt a military option. Such an option is serious, but circumstances will dictate whether he will employ it.

At present, Syrian energies are aimed mainly on convincing the Arab world to halt normalisation with Israel. It is open to question whether other Arab states would fight alongside Syria in a new war.

□ Growing friction between Israel and President Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority means there is now the possibility of a long and bitter struggle between the two, with the glare of international publicity ensuring that any local issue could become a regional one within hours.

Since thousands of Palestinians are now armed, a new struggle would result in a Lebanon scenario rather than the (1987-1993) intifada.

□ Despite the increase in Palestinian weaponry, the military balance remains overwhelmingly in Israel's favour.

A military source said the key problem would be what the Israeli public would want to do about such a conflict.

As well as analysing the potential for conflict over a wide area in coming years, Israeli sources also supplied Mr Netanyahu's right-wing Government with an assessment of prospects for various Arab leaders, many of whom may leave behind potentially violent succession struggles.

One source said a dangerous vacuum was foreseen in the event of the death of Mr Arafat, with Abu Mazen, his current deputy, unable to command the loyalty of the various internal Palestinian security services. No clear picture was presented about how such an eventuality would affect the moribund peace process which yesterday was subject to a new American rescue mission led by Dennis Ross, the US special envoy.

The death of President Assad, known to have been ill for years, could lead to chaos as his designated successor, his son Bashar, is not considered up to the post. The death of his elder son, Bassel, in a car crash three years ago, means that the most likely succession



New Katyusha rockets, the Hezbollah weapon, will be able to hit outskirts of Haifa

would be a shaky coalition of military and political figures led by Bashar.

In Jordan, the death of King Hussein could have different repercussions. If it occurred within the next few years, an orderly takeover by his younger brother, Crown Prince

Hassan, is likely. But beyond five years, complications could arise concerning the King's sons and the country's 60 per cent Palestinian majority.

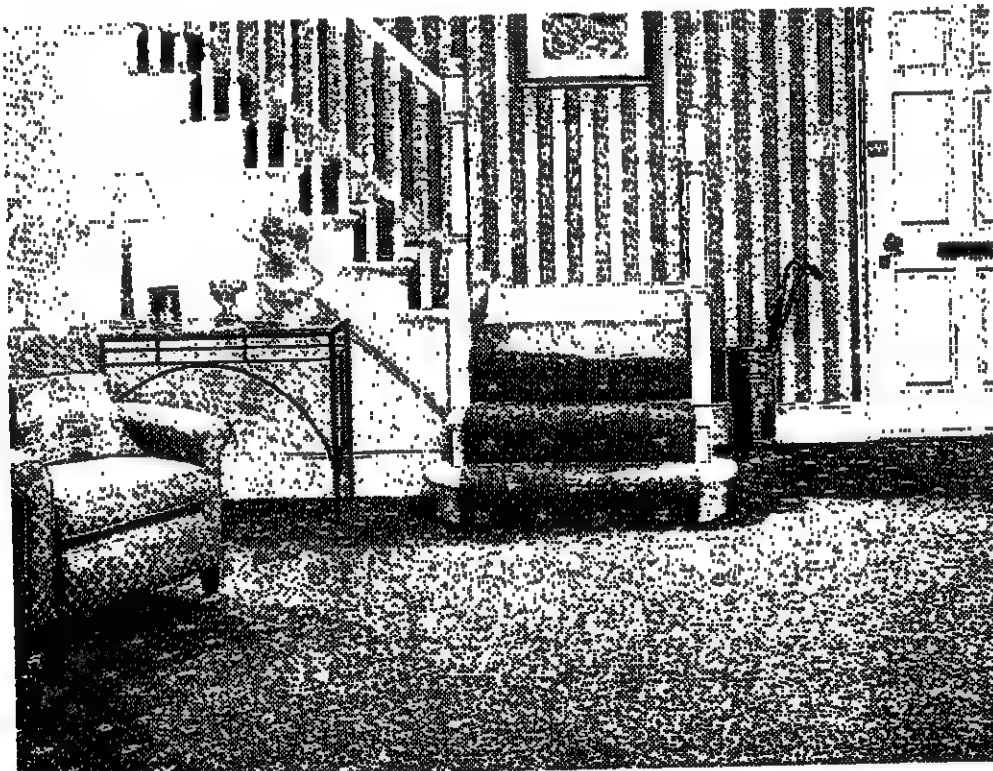
Under President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi regime is seen by Israeli sources as regrettably stable. His death

could lead to a total collapse, with regional implications.

A recent assassination attempt on Saddam's favoured elder son Uday is seen as having Iranian backing, but Uday is dismissed as clinically insane.

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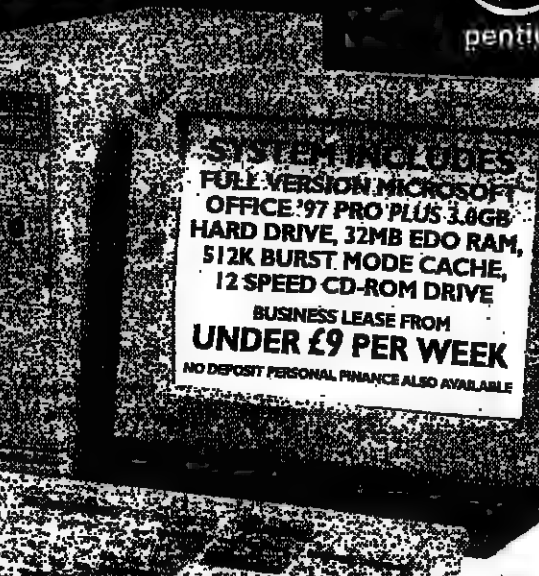
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US report attacks Swiss for trade in Holocaust bullion

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE receipt by Switzerland and other neutral nations of Nazi gold looted from Holocaust victims and central banks helped Germany to prolong its capacity to wage war, according to a scathing study released by the US Government yesterday.

The report said there was conclusive proof that gold coins, jewellery and dental fillings taken from concentration camp victims were melted with gold plundered from banks in occupied countries into bars that were traded abroad. There was no evidence that neutral countries accepted such tainted gold bars knowing their origin.

While singling out Switzerland among the neutral countries trading with wartime Germany for its harsh criticism, the report castigated the United States role as inadequate and accused Britain of resisting America's more aggressive efforts to seek compensation for refugees from the stolen gold after the war.

Britain had feared that providing looted funds for resettlement of refugees would conflict with its restrictions on the number of Jewish refugees who could enter Palestine, then under a British mandate, the report said. It also found that the urgent desire of Britain and France to revive commerce with Switzerland after the war made them reluctant to join in tough economic measures against

the Swiss, causing serious policy differences with the US.

The report was compiled under orders from President Clinton from the files of 11 government departments, including millions of classified documents in the US National Archives. The project was directed by Stuart Eizenstat, a veteran Washington official.

He favoured using the remaining Gold Pool of \$70 million (£43 million), controlled by Britain, France and the US, in a fund for the benefit of surviving Holocaust victims. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced in London on Tuesday that Britain would host an international conference to help resolve the ownership of Nazi gold seized by the Allies.

The report said serious

Review pledged on war conduct

Geneva: The Swiss Government yesterday welcomed the Eizenstat Report and promised to review the report's assessment of its conduct during the Second World War (Peter Capella writes).

But Flavio Cotti, the Swiss Foreign Minister, said that, at first glance the report did not recognise Switzerland's position in the war, surrounded by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

shortcomings in Allied policy led to a loss of most leverage before Switzerland had met its obligations to return Nazi gold after the war. Neither the US nor its Allies pressed the neutral countries hard enough to fulfil their moral obligations to help Holocaust survivors by redistributing heirless assets for their benefit.

Nazi Germany transferred looted gold worth \$400 million, equivalent to \$3.8 billion in today's dollars, to the Swiss National Bank to finance its war machine, the report said. In all, the Germans confiscated an estimated \$580 million, \$5.6 billion in today's value, "one of the greatest thefts by a Government in history".

Switzerland had a complex role during the war but the persistence of its "business as usual" attitude in resisting a postwar return of the gold was inexplicable, the report said.

The other neutrals were Argentina, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Turkey, which joined the Allied effort just before the end of the war. Of these, Sweden was the most co-operative.

The Swiss were obdurate negotiators, the report said. They denied having looted gold and opposed the return of any until the current international pressure came to bear.

Swiss banks now have a fund of \$180 million for needy survivors of the Nazis. "A positive healing process has begun," the report concluded.



THE reclusive French actress Isabelle Adjani, above, came out of hiding yesterday to join the adjudicators for the fiftieth Cannes Film Festival, which opened yesterday (Dalya Alberge writes). She is the festival president.

Adjani comes out of hiding

discovered and promoted by the songwriter Serge Gainsbourg and the film-maker François Truffaut and she is best known for her performance as Camille Claudel. Rodin's mistress, for which she was received an Oscar nomination.

Crowds jostled for the briefest glimpse of the first of the Hollywood

superstars to descend on Cannes. Bruce Willis came to launch *The Fifth Element*, which opened the festival. It is a Hollywood sci-fi blockbuster set in 23rd-century New York — made in Britain at Pinewood Studios by the French director, Luc Besson. Besson said that Britain's superlative technicians were a major

reason for his decision to make the film across the Channel.

Willis plays a New York cabbie who fights the aliens, a cross between armadillos and porcupines. The star, who is said to have been paid £15 million for a *Die Hard* sequel, said that he loves coming to Europe because he is not asked about the cost of the film and how much actors get paid. He was immediately asked those very questions.

Kennedy escapes underage sex charge

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE latest lurid instalment in the sex lore of the Kennedy clan appears to have ended as abruptly as it had begun, with the woman who alleged that she had an affair with Michael Kennedy when she was a 14-year-old babysitter announcing yesterday that she would not press charges.

Lawyers for Marisa Verrochi, now 19, cited fear of pressure and damaging publicity as the main reasons for which she would not proceed with a formal complaint against Mr Kennedy, 39.

Members of her family are among the Democratic party's leading donors, and were close to Senator Robert Kennedy, Michael's father.

The episode comes only six years after a cousin, William Kennedy Smith, was acquitted of raping a woman in Palm Beach. Although Miss Verrochi will not take the matter to court, public opinion remains

convinced that Mr Kennedy did have sex with her when she was below the age of legal consent, and was summed up yesterday by the *New York Post* headline: "Looks like Kennedy is off hook in 'rape' case".

The scandal broke late last month when the *Boston Globe* revealed that Miss Verrochi she had a passionate five-year relationship with Mr Kennedy, starting at an age when sex with her would have constituted statutory rape and

ending only last September. The revelations led to a "preliminary review" by Massachusetts police and prosecutors, but the investigations soon stalled after the Verrochis refused to co-operate. The family did not, however, issue a public denial.

Yesterday the police chief of Cohasset, where the Verrochis live, told the *New York Post* that he had a "gut feeling" that the Verrochis would "cover for Kennedy" to protect their only daughter.



Kennedy allegedly had affair with babysitter, 14

Navy women 'jinx' denied

New York: Speculation that the presence of women on the aircraft carrier *USS John F. Kennedy* has cast a jinx on the vessel has been dismissed by American naval commanders (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Five crew members have been killed in the past three months on board the heavily armed carrier. Eight others have been injured seriously.

The recently refitted ship took more than 300 women into its crew earlier this year, and hushed talk below decks

now is of such traditional sailors' bogeys as mermaids and sirens. Women ratings are referred to by many men as "FJs" or "female Jonahs". Some crewmen invoke the name of Wendy, from *Peter Pan*, who was considered an ill omen by Captain Hook.

On Tuesday, naval divers called off their search for Nadia Aiten, 22, who was lost overboard in calm seas about 150 miles off the Florida coast last week. She has been listed officially as "lost at sea". In

March, four crewmen on the carrier were killed when one of its helicopters crashed while flying a training sortie off the North Carolina coast.

Despite the sequence of disasters, Commander Joe Gradischer, a spokesman for the US Navy, dismissed suggestions of a "Jonah-type jinx" or a woman-related "ocean-going curse". He said: "None of these events is related. Naval operations are inherently dangerous and incidents can occur from time to time."

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Dr Thomas Stuttford on the allergens carried by cats, how the technology of the racetrack and space industry can solve the problems of pressure sores, the use of glass as an offensive weapon and why aspirin continues to be hailed as a wonder drug

Why Humphrey the cat may have to move on

Humphrey, the Downing Street cat, may be tempted to go absent without leave again. The settled home provided for him by the Majors is in danger. It is reported that the Prime Minister's wife, who has perhaps read too many medical briefings, thinks that cats carry too many infections, and are too often a source of allergic disease, to be welcomed in the house.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor of the Exchequer is said to own a cat who wouldn't welcome a rival.

Cherie Blair may be right. Allergy to cats, particularly the dried skin shed by a cat, is a common source of rhinitis, a runny nose often associated with all the other symptoms of hay fever. Cats are also a frequent trigger for an attack of asthma in a vulnerable person.

If, however, the Blair children were to develop red eyes, a nasal discharge, a nocturnal cough or a wheeze it would be unfair to blame Humphrey alone. Other factors, the concentration of early summer pollen blowing into Downing Street from St James's Park, the tensions of a house move, and parents who will be preoccupied with demands made by their changed world would all be factors likely to play a part.

Nothing can be done about pollen, or prime ministerial responsibilities, but it is perhaps as well that the Blairs are, reportedly, using No 11 as their main home, leaving Humphrey to the bachelor Gordon Brown. The uncertainty of Humphrey's future,

and the increasing pollen count, are not the only reasons why allergic rhinitis has been in the news this week. There has been confirmation that Triludan, terfenadine and Astemizole, long-acting popular non-sedating antihistamines, may, when used in association with some antibiotics, in particular Klaricid, erythromycin and Ciproxin, as well as grapefruit juice, may

to carry with them the risk of a quinidine-type change being induced in the heart's rhythm. It is also claimed that Fexofenadine, which is closely related to Triludan and is its active metabolite, is free of the risk of causing dangerously irregular heartbeats.

The current thinking on treatment for rhinitis has recently been comprehensively reviewed in *The Practitioner*.

Treatment for allergies is not confined to taking tablets or capsules by mouth. The nasal sprays and drops which are available have been improved over the last few years. Flunoxazole, Beconase and Rhinocort are probably as well used as any. But to achieve the best result it is important that treatment start before any trouble is expected. Drops and sprays, as well as tablets, should be used for a fortnight before the atmosphere becomes laden with pollen dust from grass and trees, or a planned visit to grandparents who refuse to banish the cat is due to take place.

If it is decided to rely on local treatment and the nose is already blocked, steroid drops may be the best initial therapy. If nose breathing is still possible a nasal spray may be as effective and is easier to use for good penetration can be achieved with the patient's head held upright and slightly forwards.

Two new nasal sprays, Nasonex and Nasocort have both become available; they have the advantage of staying where they are sprayed and only have to be used once a day. These sprays, unlike some of the earlier ones, don't affect the sense of smell and

very occasionally cause cardiac arrhythmias.

This research has caused doctors to rethink their prescribing habits.

Sufferers from hay fever, or any other allergy, will not have to suffer in silence. Other antihistamines are available. Claritin is also long-acting and non-sedating. Its manufacturers claim that it has undergone extensive investigations in relation to cardiac arrhythmias and it has never been demonstrated that any have been caused by it. Zirtek and Semprex also do not seem



Humphrey: not welcome in the Blair household



Pressure sores are the most common complication of a spinal injury such as the one suffered by Christopher Reeve, which left him a quadriplegic

High-speed help for bed sores

Thirty years ago comatose or unconscious patients used to be regularly turned in bed, and their backs rubbed and cleaned every few hours. If back care is inadequate, the skin which has borne the dead weight of the immobile patient can become inflamed and break down into an ulcer. The ulcer, a pressure or bed sore, may erode the underlying tissue and on occasion they can become so wide and deep that the resulting leukaemia can be fatal.

Although regular movement of the patient is now usually ensured by a ripple bed, or a mattress which provides an air cushion, it is still an essential part of nursing. Massaging, however, can introduce infection and it has been abandoned.

Yesterday's ward sister would have been amazed to learn that the technology of the racetrack and space industry is now being harnessed to solve the problems of the pressure sore in the ward, or those that occur after the patient has been discharged.

The expertise derived by engineers in the pits is now being put to use to study the stresses that sitting, or lying, motionless in bed inflicts on the skin and subcutaneous tissue of a patient.

When a Formula One racing car drives into the pits, a small black box, like that on an aircraft or space rocket, reveals the strain to which the car has been subjected. A tattle-tale, which is a data-logging computerised card, can be taken out of the black box and later plugged into a computer. The tattle-tale will reveal the entire history of all the insults and trauma that the car's engine, suspension, steering and breaking has undergone during the race and will also show how the car has responded. Using this system, the information can be rapidly collected and analysed by engineers.

Professor Martin Ferguson-Pell has recently returned from the United States to take up a chair in Technology and Disability at University College, London. Professor Ferguson-Pell, who works at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore, Middlesex, is now investigating ways of adapting the lessons learnt from high-performance mechanical engineering with the aid of the black box and the tattle-tale card to plot the stresses and strains that may be borne by the human body.

One of the conditions that has interested Professor Ferguson-Pell is that of pressure sores. By using the tattle-tale, he and his team plan to find out how much stress the skin of a patient can stand before it becomes inflamed and breaks down.

His research team, which is funded by the medical charity Remedi, with the aid of a grant from the National Lottery, hopes to obtain information that will enable patients to be better nursed in hospital and to be taught the tricks of sitting, and regularly shifting, so as to avoid developing skin sores. Although pressure sores are the most common complication

of a spinal injury, they can affect any patient who is debilitated and immobile.

The apparatus being used by the research workers consist of cushions, or pads, containing multiple sensors, which, second by second, record the pressure exerted on them by a sitting patient, and hence the pressure the skin has to bear. The black box, with its tattle-tale, is screwed beneath the bed or chair and records these varying pressures. The multiple sensors in the pads now only record pressure but in the future some will be adapted to measure shearing forces and others will record moisture content and temperature, the microclimate which will also influence the likelihood of skin damage.

When fully developed the tattle-tale system coupled to sensory pads will also allow orthopaedic surgeons to study the pressure exerted on a limb stump after amputation from an artificial leg, or even the pressure on feet by ill-fitting shoes.

Glass attacks and their side effects

EVERY year there are 3,400 to 5,500 assaults in which glass is used as a weapon. A pre-election Labour Party report

accepts that toughened glass — which shatters into a thousand pieces when broken — would protect bar workers and casual bystanders from fighting drunks who can so easily perpetrate a serious or disabling assault.

For the past decade research workers, led by Professor Jonathan Shepherd of the Department of Oral Surgery, Medicine and Pathology at the University of Wales College of Medicine, have been investigating the use of beer glasses as offensive weapons. Most injuries inflicted are to the face, but some people sustain lasting damage to their ligaments and deeper tissues of the hands and wrists.

Of 121 regular bar workers in South Wales interviewed by the research team, 41 per cent had sustained cuts from glasses, either as a result of assault or by accidental injury. Research has shown that when the glass is used as a weapon, it is usually used while intact and only breaks on contact with the victim's face.

The latest research studies the effect of cross-infection from broken, dirty beer glasses. The survey shows that half of all bar staff interviewed had been exposed to someone else's blood, thereby providing an unacceptable risk for the transmission of hepatitis B.

ASPIRIN continues to be hailed as a wonderdrug and new properties are regularly announced. The drug not only reduces the risk of a heart attack but is obligatory first-aid treatment after one.

Researchers investigating the cardio-protective powers of aspirin have concluded that these powers are not only related to the drug's ability to stop platelets sticking together. (Platelets are small particles in the blood which are involved in the clotting mechanism.)

A bereaved person's mental state may become arrested at any stage of the grief response. As was demonstrated by the BBC *Today* programme, which interviewed former MPs who had lost their seats in past elections, some people were still angry years later. Others remained depressed for years, but some fortunately had either not worried and had grinned and borne it, or had lived through their anger and grief to start a new life outside Westminster. When persistently miserable, the beaten member is likely to be anxious and depressed. If this state of mind lasts for more than a few months, or is very severe, the ex-parliamentarian would need to be

Hearts stay healthier with aspirin

THE *New England Journal of Medicine* reports that measuring the C-Reactive protein level in the blood, which is a marker for inflammation, has revealed a correlation between this level and the likelihood of having a heart attack. As aspirin reduces the

C-Reactive protein level, by reducing inflammation, it was thought possible that its cardio-protective action could be twofold: that aspirin might reduce platelet stickiness and any inflammatory process which could predispose people to heart attacks.

It was shown that taking aspirin reduced the risk of a heart attack in those patients with a high C-Reactive protein level by 56 per cent, but had no influence on those with normal C-Reactive levels.

A possible remedy for post-election blues

COMMENTATORS have been quick to recognise the association between the loss of a parliamentary seat and the bereavement response. A defeated candidate might suffer a period of shock and disbelief, which would be followed by anger, depression, and later by acceptance. The grief response isn't brought on only by death but by anything that causes loss or separation from friends and a well-established lifestyle.

A bereaved person's mental state may become arrested at any stage of the grief response. As was demonstrated by the BBC *Today* programme, which interviewed former MPs who had lost their seats in past elections, some people were still angry years later. Others remained depressed for years, but some fortunately had either not worried and had grinned and borne it, or had lived through their anger and grief to start a new life outside Westminster. When persistently miserable, the beaten member is likely to be anxious and depressed. If this state of mind lasts for more than a few months, or is very severe, the ex-parliamentarian would need to be

treated with anti-depressants. Serenax might be the drug of choice as it alleviates both anxiety and depression without causing so much inertia that the patient is incapable of looking for a new job. One

word of caution, however. Drugs of this type are not recommended for anyone with liver damage, so if too much wine has been spent in Aggie's Bar, some other treatment would be needed.

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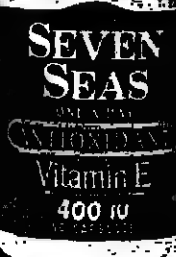
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Final day of our series: growing up with a cold, tyrannical father

I was born in the north London suburb of Fincham Road in a late 1920s terrace house, on August 23, 1935, the youngest of three sons of an impoverished, commercial traveller, George Edward Clement Strong, and his wife, Mabel Ada Smart.

The marriage was not a good one. My father had no sense of responsibility whatsoever for any of his children. It was my mother who was to be the driving force to secure for them what her father had told her was the key to their future — education. To achieve that she worked hard, taking every kind of job, and leaving behind her a debt which no son can ever adequately repay.

Shy and introverted, I felt alone in this unhappy, riven household, creating instead my own secure world of my theatres and through wielding the paintbrush. Early on I became fascinated by the past, and although what I would like to have done most was to design for the stage (later I had the good fortune to marry into that), it was deemed safe for me to go on to read history at university with perhaps a career in teaching in mind. That came at the end of important formative years at the local grammar school, Edmonton County, where there happened to be one other boy, slightly older, who was also to achieve public distinction — Norman Tebbit.

Christmas Day 1949
I am writing this entry at 1.15pm, on Christmas morning at home at 23 Colne Road, having returned from midnight Mass. How strange it is to be sleeping in this back bedroom again after so long. I was the youngest of three brothers. Until I was 12 or 13 I shared the back bedroom with my brother, Brian, at least from about 1944, when he came back from evacuation. We started in one double bed and then, as the war ended, that was changed with someone nearby for two black-iron Victorian ones. Miss was that nearest the door and the light switch, and I had to get out of bed to turn it off, treading on the cold linoleum square which was all that covered the floorboards.

There were no points and no bedside tables. The room was a distempered and there was a small cast-iron fireplace which was never lit. In winter it was so cold that each morning the windows were a flowery pattern of thick frost.

The room was divided down the middle, the left-hand side being assigned to me. The solitary piece of furniture which was mine was an old wooden chest of drawers painted green. Alas, it had no drawers, and a curtain was stretched across it on a wire. Behind that lurked the shelves, on which resided what little one had. But it was better than what preceded it, for the double bed had during the war been moved to the room below and sat beneath an Anderson shelter, the centre of the room being jacked up by wooden joists in case the ceiling fell in due to bombing. The back room in which I now lay had housed our neighbour's furniture piled high for the duration of the war. It wasn't till my mid-teens, when my eldest brother Derek married, that I had a room of my own, the tiny box room at the front of the house about 9ft by 8ft.

December 26
How old Father seems, and sad and irritating. He will be 75 next year. I look at him and find it very difficult to believe that he was apparently quite the life of the party when he was young. Occasionally there's a flicker of what might once have been but what I see now is a slightly bent figure with an enormous bloated stomach. He left school at 12 and seems to have forgotten what little he ever learnt there. I find it difficult to have any

communication with him, worse now because he sleeps all day, waking only for meals, and has become terribly forgetful. His life had been a monument to the lack of will power. No one should be like that. I think in a funny kind of way that he loves my mother, despite having ill-treated her for 40 years. He wanted a housekeeper, not a wife. His attitude to women is basically prewar working class. He still resents her reading a book because he regards that as being, but also because she is demonstrating her relative literacy over him.

November 21, 1984
The telephone rang at about 8am this morning. It was Derek, my eldest brother. Father had died in the night. I remember saying to Julia years ago: "Don't think that I will shed a tear when this happens and I shall feel any guilt about it." I was right. How could it be otherwise? He was never interested in any of us. He had barely addressed a word to me for the last 25 years. Home in retrospect was largely hell, and all one regrets is that one didn't get away from it soon enough. Everything revolved around him. My early years were all of a pattern. In deprived wartime he always had his egg and bacon breakfast. We didn't. He always had to have his piece of steak for supper when he came in from work. We stood and watched. He always had what he wanted on the radio. We listened. He would always eat on his own. Indeed, Mother cooked in relays. He would shout "Mabel, Mabel", and she would rush pan-stricken to the kitchen. "Where's the mustard/salt-sauce etc?" The particular item would be only ten feet away in the larder or just behind him on the gas stove. But he would never move. He wanted her through life. "Why are you reading?" "Haven't you got a wartime job yet?" "Look at Mabel's teeth" (when the poor thing had lost one at the front). It was never-ending. Until the 1960s she was given £2.45 a week with which to feed and clothe herself and three boys. Yes, I did know what poverty was. Some days we would sit trying to make the most of the faro to Enfield or Putney Green and a 1s 9d seat at the cinema.

He had no interest in any of his children that I can ever remember. He might have done when we were very young. Certainly he had no idea that they ought to be brought up. Year in and year out we trembled, awaiting his return from work. On went the old pink dressing-gown and out came the whisky. He sat in the corner of the sitting room with the radio by him. Piles of dirty handkerchiefs were to

'Home was hell, and all one regrets is that one didn't get away soon enough'

hand for he suffered badly from asthma. Indeed, he was always "ill". No one was ever so ill as he was but he went on till his 90th year. All my memories are of him being ill, of us having to be quiet, or leave the room, or carry things up and down stairs as he sat huddled in bed. I think that he only ever took me out two or three times on my own, and that would be fishing on a Sunday morning, which I loathed. I remember making at school a small pouch for him to keep his tobacco in for Christmas. He dismantled it virtually before my eyes in order to use the piece of chamois leather as a duster. All through the war and after he had boxes of black-market chocolates which he kept in a cupboard. He would cheerfully eat one in front of us, or give one to one child and none to the others.

Only once did my mother ever get him to go to a parents' evening at Edmonton County Grammar School. I recall coming home clutching a very good report and advancing to show it to him. He pushed it away unread.

My only memory of 23 Colne Road was of life under a dictatorship, my mother sitting, sometimes weeping, in the kitchen. Everything she said was prefaced with, "But don't tell your father". For 55 years this went on. Only in the last 20 did she get her own

back when he had to depend on her. Then she turned and became ironically his old self. But even then she ran round him still, crippled as she was with arthritis. What he needed always had to be fetched, carried, cooked. What a marriage! As a teenager I could never understand why in other homes I visited the family did things together like eat, go out, go on holiday. The husband and wife would be loving to each other and to their children. None of that ever came my way.

For a time I hated him. I use that word deliberately. As I grew up I suddenly saw him for what he was, and for what he had done to my mother and to all of us. I hated him for that. In one's teens it was all bottled up. How could it have been otherwise? From time to time it would explode in violent rages when I had

endured some awful humiliation. I have never felt anger, rage and resentment so deeply, so bitterly, as I did in my early teens.

I blamed him too for what I had become: "Mother's boy". For years as I grew into manhood I took his place. I went everywhere with her even into my early twenties. It was all so wrong, and when I achieved the break, my mother never quite recovered from it. On my marriage it was total. But it should never have been allowed to happen.

And yes, I was ashamed of Colne Road. I dreaded anyone I knew coming there. Father would always deliberately say the wrong thing. The person concerned would then be torn to pieces afterwards. Only as life passes and happiness comes can one have the true measure of unhappiness. Worse than that, only when one matures and sees good homes and good parenthood can one's own childhood be placed into context. God knows, my mother really did what she could. Yes, she loved us boys all, she cooked, laboured, went to work, subsidised us and really believed in our education, but it was at a price. We were to be her boys. No one was good enough for us, none of us should ever marry. The attitude was primeval. As I married last, for years I was held up as an example: "Roy's sensible," she would proclaim.

But to return to my father. What did life mean to him? Did he enjoy it? One tries to look with compassion at any human being. I suppose he got pleasure out of some things: fishing and the garden. The terrible thing is that I cannot think of one human gesture he ever made to anyone. I can't think of any help or kindness towards anyone either. I never recall one gesture of love towards my mother. Even birthdays and Christmas were reduced to a few pounds handed over and an entry in his ledger. Never a kiss, a bunch of flowers or a box of chocolates. And never a surprise gift. She sounded almost girlish when I spoke to her after he had died. I'm hardly surprised, but it's a false dawn.

Extracted from *The Roy Strong Diaries 1967-1987*, by Roy Strong, to be published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson on May 12, £20.
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Times readers can buy *The Roy Strong Diaries* for just £18 (a saving of £2 on the publisher's recommended price) by calling *The Times Bookshop* on 0900 134 459

'I can't think of one human gesture Father made to anyone. Nor can I recall a gesture of love towards Mother'

Mother's boy: "I went everywhere with her into my early twenties," says Roy Strong. "It was all so wrong"



Tranquil and secure with Julia

MICHAEL LEONARD



Getting married to Julia in July 1971

July 1971

At this point my diary really does falter, for I was on the lead-up to July 21 when I proposed to Julia in St James's Park after having taken her to a perfectly awful film of *King Lear*. From then on, and with all the machinations to achieve a wholly private wedding, everything else went out of my mind. What happened can only be caught in retrospect.

September 9, 1971. Letter to Jan van Dorsten (a Dutch friend)

By the time that this reaches you it will have happened. I will have eloped with Julia Trevelyan Oman! Unbeknown to practically everyone, to parents especially, I asked Julia to marry me on July 21. I cannot tell you how thrilled and happy I am about it all... No one knows. It has been a vast operation doing it so [that] no one does, and very romantic. In the church at Wilmore, near Stratford-upon-Avon, lies locked in the safe a huge special licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Gerard Irvine, a very good friend, is marrying us and David Hunt, his curate, is my best man — the old lady sacristan of 91, sworn to secrecy, is witness.

May 6, 1972. To Jan van Dorsten

We work hard and economise for the reason that we have seen the house of our dreams in Northamptonshire. We

have unfortunately fallen in love with it and are quite obsessed, which is fatal because it is expensive, but we have decided that we would rather live as decayed gentlefolk in grandeur than in bijou smartness in Brighton.

September 5, 1979. To Jan van Dorsten

Next Monday we will have been married eight years and my only regret is that it were not longer. We wish you both Jan van Dorsten had just married for the third time! all the loving happiness that we have had and have every day together, all the eating together, the cooking, the washing-up, the planting and weeding, the shopping, the working, the everything — it is the most precious thing ever to be given.

1996. Postscript

... On the other side of the house Julia, I know, will be at her drawing board, our two cats curled up in nests close to her. We will meet at lunch, something always to look forward to... everywhere there are photographs of Julia and of our cats, both past and present. Julia happy picnicking at Glyndebourne. Julia peering through the branches of an apple tree laden with fruit. Julia doing her patchwork or embracing a cat. Outside spreads that paradise which we created together, the garden. I feel tranquil and secure. Can anyone ask for more?

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Britain's blind eye to inhumanity

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, shows how to put war criminals on trial

Dusko Tadic is no Hermann Goering. He had no political power, and not even a military uniform — he was a vicious hoodlum allowed to rampage through prisoner-of-war camps. His conviction at The Hague yesterday for "crimes against humanity" scarcely begins to fulfil the promise of Nuremberg. That historic achievement owed much to Britain, and the 1945 Labour Government. The new Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, may thus take the opportunity, rejected by his Tory predecessors, to give this nation once again a leading role in the enforcement of human rights.

The difficulties faced by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia have not been helped by Britain, which has not contributed to the tribunal's trust fund. Much of the work is underwritten by America and Holland. Britain has done little more than pay the salary of four investigators and provide some equipment. More seriously, the British Government has declined to provide war-crimes evidence believed by prosecutors to have been intercepted at GCHQ. More seriously still, the Government has refused to order British troops in Bosnia to arrest the Bosnian Serbs indicted for war crimes by the Hague tribunal. The Dayton directive "to arrest if encountered" has been translated as "avoid encountering at all costs".

This is the sorry way in which the last Government carried the torch of Nuremberg. That trial is celebrated because for one brief moment the international community allowed law to rule over diplomatic expediency. That it succeeded in providing a fair trial, completed within a year, for the Nazi leaders was in large measure due to the British judges and the British prosecution team, led by Labour's Attorney-General Hartley Shawcross.

In the aftermath of Nuremberg, the UN declared in favour of a permanent international criminal court — a proposal revived in 1992 as a diplomatic fig-leaf to cover its embarrassment at the failure to prevent genocide in the former Yugoslavia and, the following year, in Rwanda. This has led to its "showpiece" tribunal in The Hague, with one conviction (of Tadic) after four years, and the disastrous mismanagement of Rwanda tribunal in Arusha, which has not even commenced its first trial.

The UN's basic mistake was to opt for full-blooded adversary proceedings akin to American jury trials. It was beguiled by the memory of Nuremberg, forgetting just how simple that case was to prosecute, in a defeated country with defendants safely under lock and key and all the documentary evidence available.

The Hague tribunal has had to operate thousands of miles from the scene of the crimes, with witnesses now scattered across the world and with no

power of search or seizure, let alone of arrest. It has only eight defendants in custody so far, only one (a Croat general) of any seniority. Its adversarial procedures have produced rules that are exquisitely fair in theory, yet its need to protect witnesses has led its judges to make anonymity rulings which are manifestly unfair to the defence. In one appalling decision, the court ruled by a majority that Tadic would not be allowed to know the names of some of his accusers, on whose anonymous testimony he could be jailed for life. This was not so much setting human rights standards as betraying them.

The Tadic judgment is the time for the international community to take stock of this tribunal. Many diplomats (especially British, French and Chinese) do not want it to work at all, because they feel it will lead to the establishment of a permanent criminal court. But that is the real justification for its existence. It must make tyrants and torturers hold their bloody hand for fear that someday, somewhere, they will be held to account. A court which cannot reach Mladic and Karadzic is unlikely to deter anyone minded to emulate those who now live untroubled after their crimes against humanity.

Robin Cook could help to enforce human rights

Britain might change this by directing its forces to take immediate action to arrest Bosnian Serbs who have been indicted for war crimes. It should certainly reverse the policy of refusing to make its electronic intelligence available to the Hague prosecutors. This refusal is a breach of our obligations under Article 29 of the tribunal statute of the Security Council. The immorality of withholding evidence of crimes against humanity was recognised last year when the White House directed the CIA and the National Security Agency to co-operate with the prosecution. The new British Government should do likewise, before it incurs America's wrath.

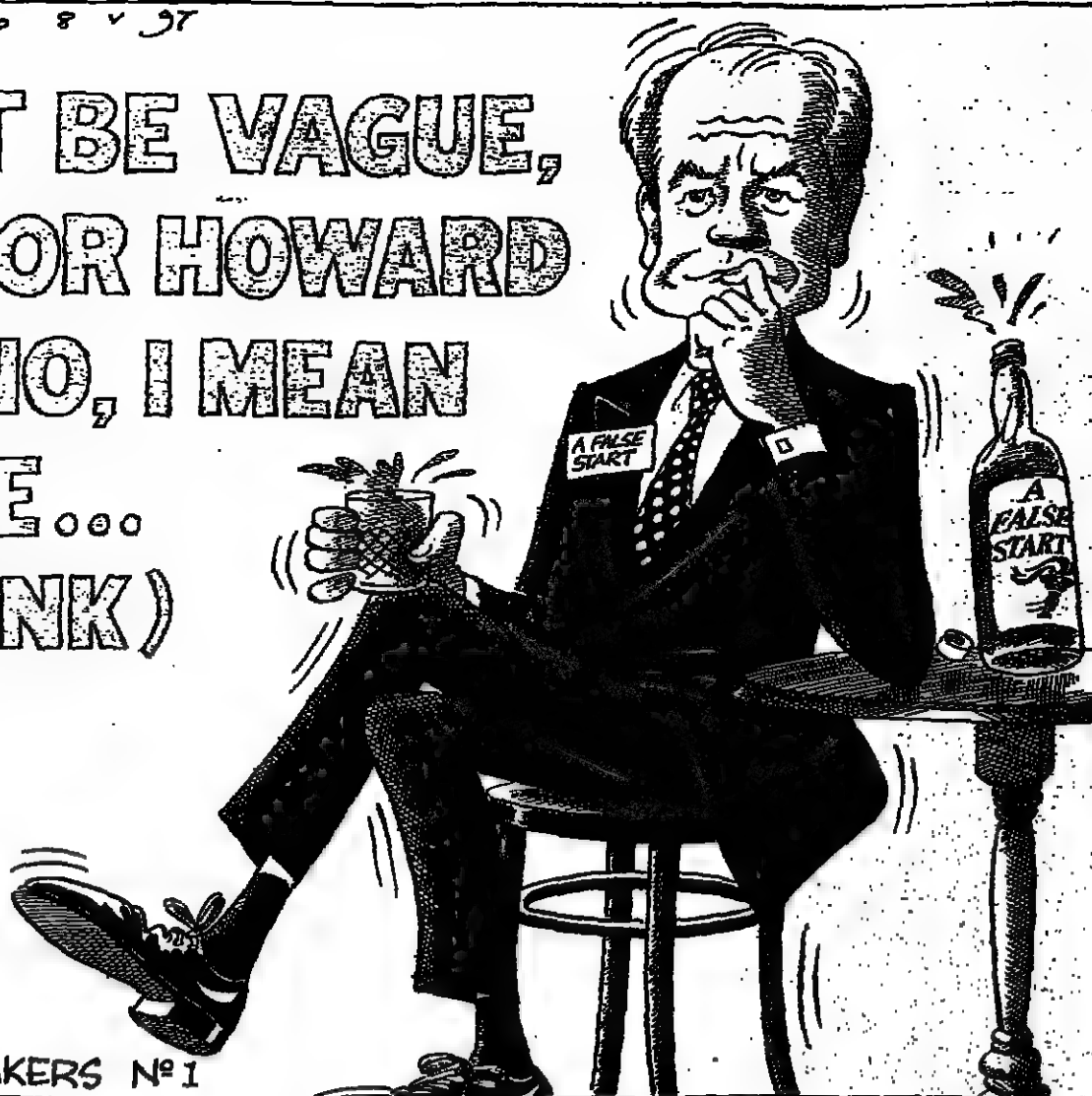
Then we might begin to make the kind of commitment to international justice that was made at Nuremberg. Britain has so far supplied no judges or prosecutors, and the barristers who assisted the Tadic defence (wearing wigs, somewhat absurdly, beneath their headphones) have now been sacked. What is particularly needed is for Britain to take a lead at the Security Council, to change the clumsy adversarial format to that of a commission of inquiry, which can take evidence on the ground and operate much more speedily and effectively, while remaining fair to the defence at the investigative stage.

Mr Cook has an opportunity to renew Britain's reputation as a champion of human rights. He will recall from his reading of Matrik Churchill documents how little attention was paid to this subject in the secret decision to arm Saddam Hussein. His foreign policy should not make the same mistake.

Peter Brookes 8 v 37

DON'T BE VAGUE, ASK FOR HOWARD ER... NO, I MEAN HAGUE... (I THINK)

TORY DECISION MAKERS N° 1



Don't bank on the Bank

Gordon Brown has gone back to a pre-war system. He may be right, but the euro threatens its stability

In 1946 a Labour Chancellor, Hugh Dalton, nationalised the Bank of England and transferred control of monetary policy and interest rates to the Treasury. This reflected the Labour Party's belief that the independent Bank's deflationary policies in the 1920s and early 1930s had caused the high unemployment of the inter-war period. In 1997, another Labour Chancellor, Gordon Brown, has restored control of monetary policy to the Bank, albeit subject to an inflation target fixed by the Government. This reflects the new Labour Party's belief that governments cannot be trusted with monetary policy, but will use it for political purposes. The pound has in fact depreciated by more than 95 per cent since 1946.

Neither Chancellor seems right. Independent central banks in the United States and Britain did follow the disastrous monetary policies which led to the 1929 crash and the slump of the early 1930s. Democratic politicians do have an inflationary bias, but it is easier to inflate than to maintain monetary discipline. All that can be said is that politicians usually make their mistakes on the inflationary side and bankers on the deflationary. Discretion may not be enough: the great American economist Irving Fisher thought that a predictable and largely automatic system of price stabilisation was required.

On December 18, 1922, Fisher testified before the Committee on Banking and Currency of the House of Representatives in support of the Gold Exchange Standard Bill to stabilise the purchasing power of money. The Bill contained all the essential features of his own "compensated dollar" plan, under which the gold content of the dollar would be varied automatically to keep it a constant purchasing power.

He told the committee: "The Federal Reserve Act has stopped panics, but it has not stopped crises. We have been in the last 18 months through the severest crisis that the United States has ever passed through. That would have been avoided if we had had a stable dollar. . . . These business cycles, which pass through periods of crisis, depression, liquidation, recovery and so on are at bottom chiefly changes in the purchasing power of the dollar. . . . If you stabilise the dollar, you stabilise business. . . . The final result of inflation is a lowering of production. The same is true of

deflation. The average man is the victim either way." Irving Fisher's own "compensated dollar" scheme came to nothing. Whether it would have worked as a transition from the Gold Exchange standard cannot be known. It would probably have been less damaging than what happened. It might even have saved the world from the slump and therefore from the rise of Hitler and the Second World War.

The idea of automatic roles to stabilise currencies did not originate with Irving Fisher: he was himself fascinated by its history. There was a Massachusetts law of 1747 which valued the state's money in terms of four commodities: corn, beef, wool and leather. In the late 19th century there was a proposal by Carl Menger, the leading Austrian economist, that the price level should be stabilised by the issue of paper money, as required, to neutralise fluctuations of purchasing power.

There was Frank Parsons' book, *Rational Money*, published in 1898, which advocated expansion or contraction of currency through a sliding scale of interest in accordance with the movement of prices. There was W. Stanley Jevons's support for what he called "a tabular standard of value". There was the Indian currency reform of 1893.

Irving Fisher is particularly important to the development of these ideas, because of his book *The Purchasing Power of Money*, published in 1911. He there argued that price changes are determined by changes in the money supply, and that those changes should be automatically corrected in the light of price changes. It is this automatic element that is absent from the theory of modern central banking: the discretionary method that Gordon Brown is asking the Bank of England to follow has unfortunately proved subject to great

errors, whether in the hands of government or central banks.

This is all based on a monetarist theory of the causes of changes in the price level. In the same book, Fisher developed his celebrated version of the equation of exchange, which is the foundation of modern monetarism. He claims that the quantity theory of money "though often crudely formulated, has been accepted by Locke, Hume, Adam Smith, Ricardo, Mill, Walker, Marshall, Hadley, Fisher, Kemmerer and most writers on the subject". He even adds the Roman Julius Paulus, who wrote about 200 AD.

In 1911, Maynard Keynes, then a young Cambridge don, was fascinated by Irving Fisher's monetary theory, which he always referred to with respect. He wrote Fisher an important letter. "The question of currency reform stands now in a very different position from that in which it stood a dozen years ago. On the one hand the general use of index numbers for the measurement of change in the cost of living has been widely extended, and the public belief in this method greatly developed. On the other hand, the establishment of the Gold Exchange standard by India and its violent adoption by numerous other countries, have demonstrated that a truly scientific reform can supply a firm and stable basis to the currency. . . . A proposal for some combination of the Gold Exchange standard with a tabular standard has, therefore, an amount of practical experience behind it, which did not exist. . . . It is important therefore that the consideration of an organised currency on the part of all civilised nations should not be left untouched until the existing standard has begun to involve all countries alike in manifest calamities."

As so often, Keynes's insights, which are sometimes superior to the theories he developed from them, raise most interesting questions. The great virtue of the Gold Exchange

system, as of the earlier Victorian gold standard, was its combination of stability and universality. Gold was a world currency, or the standard for the world currencies. When we lost the gold standard, we lost this universality.

What Gordon Brown has done is to reintroduce an independent discretionary system on a local basis. It has the merit of being related to the movement of prices, but the defect of being arbitrary. Economists going back to David Ricardo have concluded that such a discretionary monetary policy will always be abused, whether by governments or banks. In 1946 this independent central bank system was thought to have failed completely in Britain, but now it is thought that the governmental system which replaced it has failed.

The proposed European monetary union is also a discretionary system, also in the hands of central bankers, also local, though for a larger region. If, like the Indian currency reform of 1893, the euro related to a stable external policy, it might be reasonably stable itself. But the record of unanchored discretionary systems of this kind is that they are not stable, even in the hands of competent central bankers. The euro will also lack the political foundation that the individual European currencies enjoy. It will not be built on a democratic basis.

Even in 1911, when currencies were stable and the world was at peace, Maynard Keynes had this furnished, foreboding that the existing standard might "involve all countries alike in manifest calamities". Irving Fisher had similar fears. In 1933 he wrote: "I have a strong conviction that these two economic maladies, the debt disease and the price-level disease (or dollar disease) are, in the great booms and depressions, more important causes than all others put together." He even thought that the 1930s slump was so far the result of mistaken Federal Reserve policies that it would not have occurred "had Governor Strong of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York lived, or had his policies been pursued consistently after his death".

The independence of the Bank of England may prove somewhat wiser than the independence of a Chancellor of the Exchequer, but his discretion will still be open to dangerous errors.

Will ye no come back again?

Magnus Linklater on the gap left by the Scots Tories

As ever, P.G. Wodehouse put it best: "His whole attitude recalled irresistibly to mind that of some assiduous hound who will persist in laying a dead rat on the drawing-room carpet, though repeatedly apprised by word and gesture that the market for same is sluggish or even non-existent."

The Tory hound has been instructed, in no uncertain terms, to go and hunt for something better. The dead manifesto he laid on the carpet has been rejected. He still has that puzzled, chastened look on his face, but the light is beginning to dawn. He heads off, nose down, into the undergrowth. He may be gone for some time — and who knows what he may return with. In any event, most people are far too entranced with the top dogs who have replaced him to pay much attention. They are absorbed in the sheer novelty of new faces, new policies, the extraordinary sight of a Foreign Secretary saying Yes to Europe, a Chancellor handing over power to the Bank of England, and a sports minister in jeans.

It is this period of innocence that makes the business of opposition so thankless. The 165 Conservative MPs who huddle onto the Commons benches will feel not just outnumbered by the 419 Labour Members opposite (to say nothing of the 46 Liberal Democrats), but will be morally disabled as well. They will find it hard to mount a coherent criticism of the Government's decisions. Their principles will be dismissed as posturing, their objections derided as the cavilling of yesterday's men. Of nothing is that more true than of the Scottish measures that will dominate the first term of this administration. A major reform of the constitution will proceed through the House with not a single Tory MP in the country, most assuredly. The latest name to emerge from south of the border as a possible Shadow Secretary is that of Eric Forth. It is not hard to imagine the reception that will be accorded to the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst when he first rises to question the limits of a Scottish Parliament in determining health policy in Motherwell.

Yet that is precisely the kind of question that needs to be asked. Even the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, speaks of the need for "proper parliamentary scrutiny and proper public debate" when it comes to considering the referendum Bill and then the White Paper on a Scottish parliament which is promised for the summer. The order with which all this will be done is, as Tam Dalyell has pointed out, the wrong way round: first there will be a short Bill to allow the referendum to take place, then a White Paper setting out the details of the legislation, then finally, and only after the referendum, the Bill itself.

Scots will therefore be voting on measures that have not yet been drafted. The White Paper needs the most rigorous examination, because it will be the first time voters see the small print of their future contract with Westminster. Unless someone is ready to point out the pitfalls, they will not have access to the kind of information they need to make a proper choice. It is no good looking for robust opposition to the Liberal Democrats or the Scottish Nationalists. The former are co-founders with Labour of the "constitutional convention"; the latter have only six members.

Meanwhile, Tories in Scotland have to decide on their own position if they are to have any role. The party has to pull back from the extreme anti-independence stance of the former Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth. To retain credibility it cannot be seen to be doing so too hastily, its present Chairman, Annabel Goldie, has already been criticised for trying to force the pace. Its best course of action would be to spend the summer examining the legislation as objectively as possible, pointing out anomalies in the White Paper without opposing its proposals root and branch, then standing back to allow the Scots to take their own decision. If they vote yes, as they are likely to do, the Scottish Tories can then perform a decorous U-turn, support the moves towards a Scottish parliament, and campaign for election to it as soon as possible.

Long before then, unfortunately, there will have to be some blood-letting. Reclamations have already broken out over the way the party's former Chairman, Sir Michael Hirst, was forced to resign by members of his own organisation shortly before the election campaign. The timing and the ruthlessness with which the deed was done left deep wounds, which are only now being painfully probed. While that is going on, the chances of a coherent and united approach are remote.

So it is good to be able to report that at least two Scottish think-tanks, one formed by the Scottish Council Development and Industry one in memory of the late John Smith, are taking shape. Ideally, they will explore the reform proposals in detail, and will prompt hard questions about its weaknesses. They may not be able to do so in the traditional parliamentary style, but until the Tory hound has returned from his snuffings in the undergrowth, someone else will have to do the retrieving.

Cross lord

THE first post-electoral defection is on the cards. David Alton, the moral crusader and former Liberal Democrat MP who was given a peerage in John Major's last hours list, is to abandon his party to become a crossbencher in the Upper House.

Alton was reluctant to comment on his plans yesterday, but the Liberal Democrats still drunk with the number of seats they gained last Thursday, expect him to leave them — and appear to care not a hoot. "He has been seriously adrift from the Lib Dems for some time," says a party spokesman. "He never came to any meetings."

Alton upset the party's chiselled leader, Paddy Ashdown, earlier this year when he suggested that "talk of a place at the Cabinet table for Paddy would end in tears. . . . before surrendering the independence of his party for the trappings of ministerial office, he needs to ask himself some tough questions about what will be gained and what will be lost."

In response, Paddy adopted a moral tone: "Surely to God we can now find a system of politics in this country where if we agree with another party we're prepared to say,

"I agree with you." Alton disagrees profoundly and blames Paddy for "caving up for a Lib-Lab pact in carpet slippers".

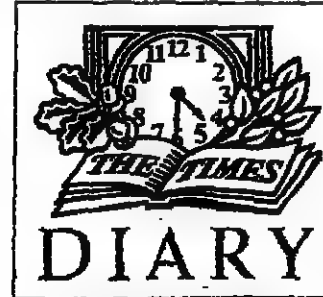
Stranded

JUST THREE days into a Labour Government, one of the bastions of old England has allowed standards to fall. For the first time in living memory Simpson's-in-the-Strand is unable to produce Havana cigars.

Luncheon guests at the finest roaster of British beef were dumfounded yesterday when presented with a humidor which contained only Dominican cigars.

Simpson's blamed a hiccup in supply, but there are suspicions of political correctness creeping in here, bearing the stamp of Ramon "Rayon Pajamas" Pajares, general manager of the Savoy Group and an active non-smoker.

The Labour Party's parliamentary unit was given its first jolt yesterday, before Tony Blair even had a chance to demand that his MPs speak with one voice. As John Prescott ambled to the rostrum in Church House in Westminster, where the party gathered for the first time, MPs clapped, but not quite as one. Clare Short resolute-



ly refused to applaud. She and Prescott used to be good friends, but fell out when she was sacked from her shadow transport job.

Manor born

THERE will soon be a new addition to Prince William's house at Eaton. Parents of boys in Manor House are clubbing together to sponsor a bust of Nigel Jaques, the last housemaster, to stand on the main staircase. Jaques, an aristocratic O.E. ran Manor House from the late 1970s until the early 1990s. Under him it was a nursery for Tory scions, peppered with Douglas-Homes, Hurds and Channons.

Already, busts of St Nicholas, Henry VI and housemasters from the late 19th century stand on the staircase posts. Jaques's gleaming pate and black-rimmed spectacles above an immaculate bow-tie will make an admirable target for whizzing ping-pong balls.

Sincerely

FIFTY years of British variety will be on parade at Golders Green Crematorium on Friday, with the back-to-back funerals of Margery Manners and Hughie Green. Manners, who wowed 'em at the East Ham Palace in London



Margery and Hughie variety at Golders Green

throughout the Fifties, is booked in for 2.30pm, and Hughie is due in at 4pm. A service usually takes just over an hour, without taking into account the extra hugging and reminiscences at old hoolers' funerals. Many of Miss Manners's mourners may well stay seated for



Green's last gameshow, which should attract some of those whose careers he launched, from Freddie Starr to Russ Abbott. Separate wakes will be held afterwards.

P.H.S

OBITUARIES

BO WIDERBERG

Bo Widerberg, film director, died on May 1, aged 66. He was born on June 8, 1930.

Life is just like a good movie," Bo Widerberg once said, "and I don't intend to leave until it says 'The End'." Not that Widerberg's artistic career in cinema followed a conventional dramatic pattern. The high point of his international reputation came 30 years ago, when the ecstatic period romance of *Elvira Madigan* wooed the world with its dappled sunlight, green fields, berries, butterflies and Mozart. (The 21st Piano Concerto's slow movement was heavily promoted on the soundtrack.)

But from the mid-Seventies, Widerberg spent more time away from cinema, working in Swedish theatre and television. His last film *All Things Fair* (released in Britain this year as *Love Lessons*) was his first since 1986.

The huge success of *Elvira Madigan* tended to distort Widerberg's profile as Swedish cinema's leading figure among the new generation of the Sixties. For in previous films and critical writings, Widerberg had set out his stall as a staunch apostle of socially relevant cinema. In his booklet *The Vision of Swedish Film*, published in 1962, he dared to attack the national idol, Ingmar Bergman, for his aloofness and retreat into metaphysics.

Widerberg's first feature, *The Pram*, completed the next year and shot in his native city Malmö, combined precise observations of a pregnant young woman and her boyfriend with the frisky antics of the French New Wave. Its successor, *Raven's End* (1963), nominated for an Academy Award, viewed the drudgery of working-class life in the 1930s through unblinking eyes.

Yet in *Elvira Madigan* (1967) Widerberg appeared to become an escapist. The man who said he was afraid of achieving "smooth contours instead of sparks" let the screen shimmer with colour and soft-focus nostalgia. He was retelling a sad-summer idyll, shared by a night-time dancer (played by Pia Degermark) and a handsome Count (Tommy Berggren), a deserter from the Swedish Army and a father of two. The idyll ends when they decide on suicide.

Widerberg meant audiences to find contemporary relevance



in this historic incident from 1889. Most people, however, were less aware of two social outcasts than the heightened aura of romantic love, conveyed in images suggesting Renoir's paintings to some, and to others television commercials for shampoo. Here at least was an art-house film free from the complexities of Bergman or Antonioni.

With *Elvira Madigan* a worldwide hit, Widerberg began to receive offers from America. He was approached to direct *The Great Gatsby*, but declined. Instead, he and his cameraman Jürgen Persson went to America to film scenes for *Joe Hill* (1971), a romantic biography of the labour leader, a Swedish immigrant, impersonated by Tommy Berggren. Widerberg's regular leading man. Once again social realism appeared translated by pretty images.

But Widerberg was not one to find sustenance abroad. Sweden remained his inspiration, particularly Malmö where he was born. His father, Arvid Widerberg, a travelling salesman, later became an established artist. Widerberg himself aimed at a writing career; his first job was night editor for a regional newspaper, *Kyssa*, a collection of stories, and *Hästermin*, his first novel (published in 1952), both drew heavily on his home town. Three other novels followed. *Malmö* provided the background, too, for his first venture into cinema, a half-hour short, *The Boy and the Kite*, favourably received when shown on Swedish television in 1962. (Kites were a Widerberg obsession.)

By this time Widerberg was earning a new reputation as a fiery critic of Swedish cinema. He wrote for *Expressen*, Stockholm's leading evening newspaper. But it was his booklet *The Vision of Swedish Film* that had the greatest impact.



A scene from Bo Widerberg's "ecstatic period romance" *Elvira Madigan*

Like the French critics of *Cahiers du Cinéma* magazine, Widerberg poured scorn on the traditional national product, pronouncing Swedish films divorced from reality.

In that respect, *Raven's End* was his true artistic testament. Drawing again on childhood memories, Widerberg placed Tommy Berggren, his alter ego, in a Malmö family much like his own, with a father, a failed underwriter salesman, pickled in alcohol and dreaming of better times, and a mother worn down by the domestic grind. Like Widerberg, Berggren's character, a factory worker, saw writing as his avenue of escape; at the end of the film, he was bound for Stockholm. The tone was sober, grey, with flurries of self-conscious technique.

After that international breakthrough, Widerberg's *Love 65*, awash with once-fashionable stylistic tricks, took as its subject a film director's personal problems. Some observers thought it a little too soon for Widerberg to

be courting comparisons with Fellini's *8½*. He was on firmer ground with *Adalen 31* (1969), where he further refined the pretty pictures of *Elvira Madigan*, applying them to the story of working-class strife and a paper mill strike in the north of Sweden. The film, very easy on the eye, won a Special Jury Prize at the Cannes festival, and later received an Academy Award nomination.

Having reached an uneasy truce between social concerns and aesthetic delights, Widerberg's output began to decline in importance. In the late 1970s and 1980s he was largely a cinema absentee, directing stage and television productions of everything from *Death of a Salesman* and Strindberg's *The Father* to the American schmalz of *On Golden Pond*.

Those films he did make — such as *The Man on the Roof* (1975) and *The Man from Majorca* (1984), police thrillers with political undercurrents — offered muted versions of his

old virtues or vices: sometimes, with Widerberg, they were hard to separate.

All Things Fair, his last film, demonstrated more of a personal touch. Yet again Widerberg returned to Malmö, weaving his memories into the decorative story of a 15-year-old boy in the Second World War, experiencing first love with his school teacher, more than 20 years older. Widerberg's own son, Johann, took the lead. Local audiences reacted with joy: one TV station adjudged it the best Swedish film of the 1990s. Abroad, the film impressed enough to secure Widerberg his third Academy Award nomination; but in the public memory it can never topple the pretty vistas, the doomed rapture and tinkling Mozart of *Elvira Madigan*.

Widerberg married first, in 1963, Ann-Mari Björklund, by whom he had a son and a daughter. The marriage was dissolved. He married secondly, in 1987, Vanja Netelblad, who survives him.

IRIS LEMARE

Iris Lemare, conductor, died on April 23 aged 95. She was born on September 27, 1902.

IRIS LEMARE was a pioneer, both as the first woman professional conductor in Britain and also on behalf of a rising generation of British composers. In the 1930s, Michael Tippett, Benjamin Britten, Alan Rawsthorne, Gerald Finzi, Elizabeth Maconchy, Elisabeth Lutyens, Grace Williams, Patrick Hadley and Gordon Jacob were among many who owed the earliest hearings of their music to her energies and talents, in times when musical fashion was not with them.

Iris Margaret Elsie Lemare was born in London, the daughter of an organist. She was educated at Bedales and at the Dalroze Eurythmics School in Geneva. She then entered the Royal College of Music, where she studied the organ under George Thalben-Ball, the long-time organist of the Temple Church, and won the Dove Prize.

Although allowed by the Principal, Sir Hugh Allen, to join Malcolm Sargent's conducting class, the most important support she received came from Adrian Boult. Contemporaries who learnt their craft working with student orchestras at the college, and among whom she was held in warm regard, included Tippett, Constant Lambert, George Weldon, Howard Ferguson and Imogen Holst.

It was at the college that, encouraged by her colleagues and by the players, she discovered the talent for communication that stood her in good stead as a conductor throughout a long career with music of many different kinds. She also played percussion in the college orchestra, on one occasion nearly bringing an early performance of Lambert's *The Rio Grande* to a premature end when, in the elaborate percussion cadenza, she and two other student conductor players, Gordon Jacob and Guy Warrack, misread their instructions and all three seized the same tambourine.

In 1931, together with Elisabeth Lutyens and Anne Macnaghten, Iris Lemare founded the Macnaghten-Lemare Concerts (from 1934 to 1937 the Lemare Concerts), "to present contemporary music of differing trends in which British music predominates". Starting modestly as "Three Chamber Music Concerts" and based at the Ballet Club Theatre (later the Mercury



Theatre), Notting Hill Gate, these centred on new works by young composers which were fitted into programmes of better known contemporary and Baroque music.

Fees and overheads were kept to a minimum, composers were required to sell at least ten tickets. The audiences were swelled by friends and relations. A leading supporter was Vaughan Williams, who had taught some of the young composers and now provided assistance in the form of private financial help, lists of suggested composers and the coercion of critics to attend.

Press reports were appreciative, and before long the concerts were sold out. In 1933, Lemare gave Benjamin Britten his first public performance, the *Sinfonietta* (Op. 1), following this with the premiere of *A Boy was Born*; Britten also took part in the concerts, as a pianist and sometimes playing the viola next to Elisabeth Lutyens on a back desk. Youthful string quartets by Britten and Rawsthorne (both later withdrawn) were also performed in 1933 and 1934, and in 1935 the concerts included the premiere of Tippett's *First String Quartet*.

Between 1931 and 1935, there were given works by 37 then little known composers, a remarkably high proportion

of whom later achieved prominence. The concerts and their tradition were resumed in 1950 under Anne Macnaghten's name.

Iris Lemare's overriding concern was to improve conditions for young composers — including, but not emphasizing, women composers. She herself achieved a breakthrough in 1936 and 1937 by becoming the first woman to conduct the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and she also conducted the Oxford Chamber Orchestra and the Carlyle Singers, and was an enthusiastic promoter of opera.

In the garden of Pollards, a large house in Essex belonging to the Howard family, she conducted annually between 1935 and 1939 works including Handel's *Xerxes*, with professional singers as well as local amateurs and children. She was later also conductor of Durham County Opera and Opera Nova from 1970 to 1984.

Later she was very active as a lecturer, adjudicator and examiner, especially in the North of England where she settled. Energetic, unstoppable, persuasive and sometimes forceful, she also possessed great charm and warmth. In her younger days she numbered climbing and skiing among her enthusiasms, which further encompassed ornithology and campanology.

She never married.

FRANK STREETEN

Frank Streeten, CBE, Head of Statute Law Revision, 1978-93, died of a brain tumour on April 4 aged 69. He was born on March 19, 1928.

FRANK STREETEN joined the Law Commission in 1967 and remained there until his retirement some 26 years later. His most important work was on statute law revision — the elimination of obsolete and unnecessary laws from the statute book — and the

rationalisation of statute law in general. His achievement is all the more remarkable in light of the fact that he was originally trained in Roman-Dutch law.

Reginald Hawkins Streeten — known as Frank — was born in Bloemfontein. His father, who had gone to South Africa as private secretary to the Governor on leaving St John's College, Oxford, later became a barrister in Cape Province, and was a long-serving editor of the South

African Law Reports. Streeten obtained a degree in English and Classics from Rhodes University College, Grahamstown, in 1947. He retained his interest in classical civilisation throughout his life.

After leaving Rhodes for the University of South Africa, while studying he worked from 1948 to 1952 as Registrar to Mr Justice G. Steyn of the Cape Provincial division of the Supreme Court of South Africa. He soon

formed the opinion that under the Nationalist Government there was no room in South Africa for someone of English descent.

In 1952 he became Crown Counsel and Legal Draftsman in Southern Rhodesia, and in 1953 he was seconded to the office of the Attorney-General in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. In 1961 he was Junior Counsel for the Federal Government at the inquiry into the aircraft accident in which Dag Hammar-

skjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was killed, and following the dissolution of the federation in 1963 he became parliamentary draftsman in Zambia, where he remained until 1966.

In that year Streeten took the difficult decision to leave Africa, where he saw no future for himself or his family. While on a visit to London to make arrangements to emigrate to British Columbia, he was offered a post, at first temporary, in the Law Commission.

The establishment of the Law Commission in 1965 had marked the beginning of a new era in statute law reform. Streeten was to play an outstanding and innovative role.

His first 11 years, 1967-78, there were spent as a member of the Statute Law Revision team and he succeeded as its head in 1978. In the next 15 years he was responsible for four large Statute Law (Repeals) Acts — those of 1981, 1986, 1989 and 1993 — and a large part of the 1995 Act was initially prepared under his direction. But the size of the repeals schedules in those Acts, the dry entries in them and the clear and succinct *Statute Law Revision Reports* which accompanied them, almost all of which he drafted



himself, mask the changes which he made and the complexity of much of the research which he and members of his team undertook. He extended the scope and techniques of

his team to visit libraries and record offices whenever necessary. He took trouble to consult all those likely to be affected by any proposed repeals. He also emphasised the need for awareness of current government programme legislation in case any particular Bill might provide an opportunity for the repeal of redundant enactments.

As a result of his work, the scope of statute law revision was enlarged to include the improvement of the existing law. That was done by using Statute Law (Repeals) Acts to slot useful parts of otherwise redundant legislation into other legislation and repealing the remainder. He was appointed CBE in 1991 for his work.

Privately, he kept much to himself. It was only at his funeral that many of his friends learnt anything of his work achievements, and when those who had worked with him found out about his varied pursuits, his love of playing the organ, and his keenness on sports and all kinds of outdoor pursuits — watersports, gymnastics, tennis and walking.

He is survived by his Swedish wife, Bodile, whom he married in 1962, and by two sons.

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NEWS

Blair bans party foreign funding

Foreign funding of political parties is to be banned as part of an anti-sleaze package that will feature in the Queen's Speech next week.

The speech outlining the parliamentary programme, which will be approved by Tony Blair's first Cabinet meeting today, will also pave the way for the outlawing of cigarette advertising and up to 20 other measures ranging from education to devolution. **Page 1**

From handbags to hairspray

So many purple suits! So much hairspray! The mood teetered between a fashionable charity premiere of a star-studded new show and the headmaster's First Day address. "You are all ambassadors!" declared Tony Blair. Four hundred eager faces looked up in rapture. **Matthew Parris. Page 1**

Lord's bans ashes

A century of MCC tradition was stubbed out at the hallowed home of cricket when campaigners won a ballot battle to have smoking banned in the Long Room at Lord's. **Page 1**

SBS drug charge

A Royal Marine attached to the Navy's equivalent of the SAS, was arrested at the squad's headquarters and charged with taking part in a £10 million cannabis smuggling ring. **Page 1**

'Threat' to victim

Raymond Sullivan, a businessman, was offered £100,000 to drop assault charges against the boxer Nigel Benn or become the target of a contract killer, a jury was told. **Page 3**

Winning privacy

National Lottery winners deserve a greater right to privacy than members of the Royal Family, most people believe. **Page 4**

Fishy technology

Anglers have been banned from using high-tech fish finders after a fishing match competitor was discovered using a miniature echo sounder. **Page 5**

Granny state

Grandmothers are so essential to humans that nature makes women stop having children so they can take on the role, the Royal Society was told. **Page 7**

Stowaway sisters survive sea odyssey

Two 18-year-old stowaway twin sisters and a Malaysian seaman who were given up for dead after leaping the equivalent of three storeys into the sea from a freighter, are safe in Australia. They swam 20 nautical miles for 40 hours: survived sharks, crocodiles, thirst and hunger, and lived on shellfish for two weeks. **Pages 1, 3**

Price of success

Charles Falconer, QC, the commercial silk appointed Solicitor-General by Tony Blair, will give up an estimated £500,000 a year for a peerage and a £60,000 salary. **Page 8**

War criminal

The first international war crimes trial since the end of the Second World War found Dusan Tadic, a 41-year-old Bosnian Serb, guilty on 11 counts of crimes against humanity. **Page 13**

Mobutu leaves

President Mobutu left Zaire for a regional summit with fellow French-speaking presidents, fueling expectations that he would not return to the country he has ruled for 32 years. **Page 14**

Cook's new era

Robin Cook, on his inaugural trip abroad as Foreign Secretary, flew to Paris and Bonn to proclaim a new era in Britain's relations with Europe. **Page 15**

Middle East gloom

The Israeli Government has been praised for one of its gloomiest reviews in many years on prospects for Middle East peace. **Page 16**

Holocaust gold

Germany was able to prolong its war because Switzerland and other neutral nations accepted Nazi gold looted from Holocaust victims, a US study found. **Page 17**



Martin Bell, the former war correspondent who is now Independent MP for Tatton, outside the Houses of Parliament yesterday

BUSINESS

BP resignation: Sir David Simon has resigned as chairman of BP, the oil giant, to become Labour's Minister for European Trade and Competitiveness. **Page 25**

Sainsbury loans: J Sainsbury, the first supermarket to launch its own bank, is to begin offering mortgages and personal loans this summer. **Page 25**

Economy slips: Manufacturing output unexpectedly slipped back during March, presenting the Bank of England with a policy dilemma. **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 18.2 points to close at 4537.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped from 100.6 to 100.3 after a fall from \$1.6368 to \$1.6358 and from DM2.8202 to DM2.8126. **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: Paul Ince, the England midfielder player who is now with Internazionale of Milan, is weighing up offers from Liverpool and Chelsea. **Page 48**

Cricket: The fast-bowling career of David Lawrence, which seemed to have been ended by injury five years ago, resumed in a manner that will raise spirits far beyond Gloucestershire. **Page 48**

Rugby union: Martin Bayfield, the Northampton lock, has withdrawn from the England tour to Argentina because of the recurrence of a pelvic condition. **Page 42**

Motor rallying: Colin McRae won the Tour of Corsica after starting the last day in fourth place, 25sec behind Carlos Sainz, of Spain, the leader. **Page 45**

ARTS

Proms preview: From the solemn strains of Beethoven, to jokes from Gilbert and Sullivan and a little jazz with the Dankworths, the 103rd season of the Proms is revealed. **Page 33**

Pop doc: At Wembley Arena, Fugees prove once and for all that hip hop acts can project themselves in an arena environment. In Dublin, Nanci Griffith delivers a tour de force. **Page 33**

Dramatic diva: Terrence McNally's absorbing study of Maria Callas, *Master Class*, comes to the West End in a new production starring Patti LuPone. **Page 34**

New films: The Czech Oscar-winner *Kolya* arrives in Britain, and *Anacondra* serves up a preposterous 40ft snake. **Page 35**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

POP
Are remixes of Michael Jackson and others an unhealthy music business obsession?

EDUCATION
As asthma affects more children, a campaign is telling schools how to help pupil sufferers

TELEVISION

Preview: Michael Buerk is back with more real-life rescues. 999 (BBC1, 9.30pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss on *Sharpe*, tooth on a big budget. **Page 47**

OPINION

The Scottish vote

If Mr Blair ignores convention and bulldozes devolution through Parliament, he will be giving notice that the "new" politics are even more arrogant and unaccountable than the old. **Page 21**

Unusual channels

Michael Jackson, a talented man of television, should let his programmes, and the ratings, do the talking. **Page 21**

Pride of the Prom

No audience is quieter or more absorbed; no cheer more thrilling than the roar which rises from the Prommers after some tremendous symphony. **Page 21**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

What Gordon Brown has done is to reintroduce an independent discretionary system on a local basis. It has the merit of being related to the movement of prices, but the defect of being arbitrary. **Page 20**

JOHN BRYANT

The choice of Tony Banks, the boisterous Chelsea supporter and left-wing MP for Newham North-West, as Minister for Sport is one of the more delightful surprises in Tony Blair's new Labour Government. **Page 46**

PETER RIDDELL

After less than a week, rumblings can already be heard in Whitehall about the activist, and highly political, style of the new Government. **Page 2**

MAGNUS UNKLATER

The order with which the Scottish changes will be made is the wrong way round. **Page 20**

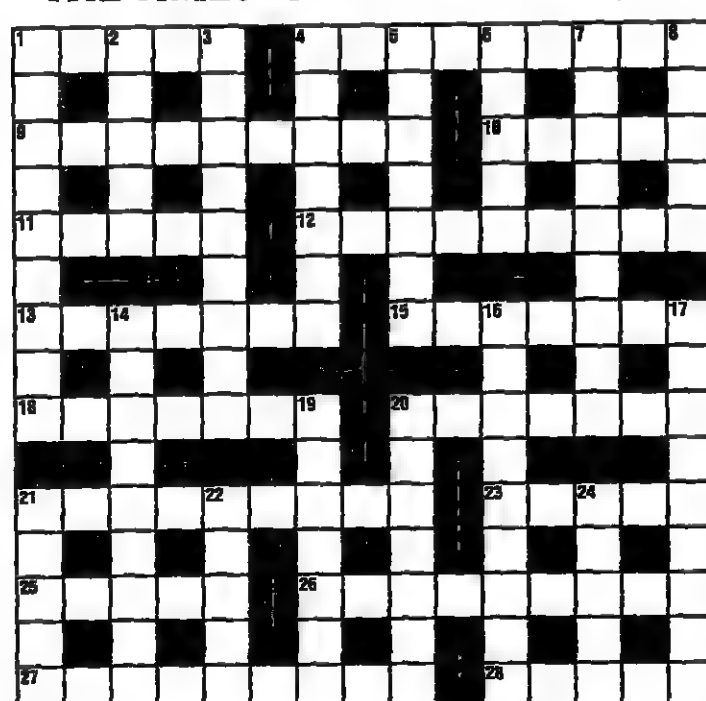
OBITUARIES

Bo Widerberg, film director: Iris Lemare, conductor: Frank Stretton, head of Statute Law Revision. **Page 23**

LETTERS

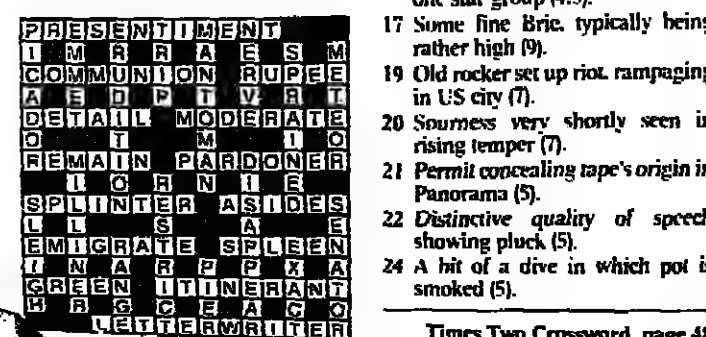
Trade and popular consent within EU: "new threat" for Venice; further thoughts on election; aid for Zaire; British beef; politics and farmers; army cap badges; school inspections. **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,474



- ACROSS**
- There's no time to finish the card game, pet (5).
 - The cabaret is perplexing? In what way? (5,4).
 - An obvious trace of brogue (9).
 - Produce what's considered, primarily, potential veal? (5).
 - Conscious of a disturbance from the passage (5).
 - Why inconclusive claim is rubbished as fanciful? (9).
 - Posh girl — a brazen one — abandoning husband for a composer (7).
 - Daring entertainer who'd listened to popular single (7).
 - Paved on German article about cancer suffering setback (7).
 - Detectable by radiation, as admitted by pupils (7).
 - Excitedly tuning TV to catch English game (5-2-2).
 - Senior chap in uniform, or a sort of suit (5).
- DOWN**
- Breathe heavily and totter — after his bile? (4-5).
 - Share prices estimated, 50% out (5).
 - See about Times newspapers in no uncertain terms (9).
 - Means to follow just part of a course (7).
 - East German, wealthy, one ignoring threats (7).
 - Ice in a drink is soothing (5).
 - Nasty chill overcomes member in race to the top (4-5).
 - You and I audition for a turn (5).
 - Less likely to be lost in translation (9).
 - Old city Romans restored to host one star group (4-5).
 - Some fine Brit, typically being rather high (9).
 - Old rocker set up riot, rampaging in US city (7).
 - Soumness very shortly seen in rising temper (7).
 - Permit concealing tape's origin in Panorama (5).
 - Distinctive quality of speech showing pluck (5).
 - A hit of a dive in which pot is smoked (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,473



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THE TIMES 2

INSIDE
SECTION

2
TODAY

FOCUS

The global range of
the world's
best-known charity
PAGES 39, 39

TRAVEL

A special deal
for the Chelsea
Flower Show
PAGES 40, 41

SPORT

Syd Lawrence back
in the swing
for Gloucestershire
PAGES 42-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PAGES
46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY MAY 8 1997



Square deal: Sir Ronald Hampel, left, chairman, with Charles Miller Smith, chief executive, yesterday after announcing "a new ICI for a new century"

ICI planning sell-offs to fund £5bn Unilever deal

By OLIVER AUGUST

ICI, the chemicals group, has embarked on a three-year £3 billion disposal programme to finance the £5 billion acquisition of Unilever's specialty chemicals business.

Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman of ICI, said: "Today's deal creates nothing less than a new ICI for the new century." The acquisition was masterminded by Charles Miller Smith, the chief executive, who spent ten years at Unilever building up the specialty chemicals activities before moving to ICI two years ago. He said the Unilever deal broadened the scope of ICI's

global business, shifting its portfolio towards less cyclical lightend chemicals.

Yesterday's acquisition is the biggest corporate change for ICI since the Zeneca demerger five years ago.

The £3 billion disposal programme includes a global offering of its 62.4 per cent stake in ICI Australia, valued at about £1.1 billion based on Tuesday's share price.

The disposals also include a plan to sell the Tioxide pigment business, which is expected to yield about £700 million. Originally Tioxide was to be floated but ICI is now prepared to consider a trade sale after expressions of interest. The group refused to

name which other operations it intended to sell.

Unilever's specialty chemicals businesses comprise four international units. The biggest is National Starch, a producer of industrial adhesives and resins. The unit had operating profit of about £213 million on sales of £1.56 billion in 1996. James Kennedy, president of National Starch, will join the ICI board.

The other units are: Quest International, a fragrance, food ingredient and flavour company based in The Netherlands, which had operating profit of £69 million on sales of £696 million last year; Unichema, a Dutch oleochemicals and nickel catalysts

company, which had a 1996 operating profit of £43 million on sales of £476 million; and Crofield, based in Britain, a producer of inorganic chemicals with a 1996 operating profit of £32 million on sales of £225 million.

The £5 billion deal is expected to be completed in the summer, conditional on regulatory consent and shareholder approval. Unilever, advised by Lazard Brothers, announced its intention to sell the division in February.

Mr Miller Smith said that ICI first looked at the Unilever division "almost 12 months ago to the week". The acquisition was "a genuinely unique opportunity to change ICI and

create a lot of value". Over an 18-month search for a means to diversify ICI, the Unilever businesses "kept cropping up as the best candidate".

Commenting on the new businesses, Sir Ronald said: "I'd be very disappointed if we don't see a faster sales growth rate than the 6 to 7 per cent per annum seen recently."

ICI is planning further acquisitions but not of a similar size. "The character and nature of future acquisitions will be incremental," Mr Miller Smith said. "Certainly in my time as chief executive I doubt there will be another acquisition of this magnitude."

Pennington, page 27

Pennington, page 27

Pennington, page 27

Pennington, page 27

Pennington, page 27

Sainsbury to start offering mortgages

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

J SAINSBURY, the first supermarket to launch its own bank, is to begin offering mortgages and personal loans to its customers from this summer.

Dino Adriano, chief executive, revealed the plan as he announced that pre-tax profits in the year to March 8 had fallen 15 per cent to £851 million, before exceptional items, including exceptional charges, pre-tax profits were £609 million, compared with £712 million.

Launching the bank cost Sainsbury £6.3 million. The bank is expected to lose a further £15 million this year. Mr Adriano also said that preparing the company's computers for the millennium would cost £40 million. Half of that will come in the current year.

The unexpectedly high millennium and bank costs led some analysts to lower their profit forecasts for the current year. SBC Warburg, Sainsbury's own stockbroker, shifted down from £728 million to £690 million. UBS, by contrast, moved up from £660 million to £685 million, while BZW sat tight at £675 million.

The company's shares, which took a battering in the first three months of this year after a profit warning, edged up 3p to 349p on news that current trading was above average for the sector. In the first half of last year, like-for-like sales were up 3.2 per cent. This rose to 3.7 per cent in the second half and is currently at 4.2 per cent. The current sector average is between 3 and 3.5 per cent, while the company reckons that inflation is about 1.5 per cent.

David McCarthy, food retail analyst at BZW, pointed out that some of the sales growth came from store exten-

sions, while Sainsbury's had also benefited more than some other supermarkets from recent petrol price inflation. The company said that last year's petrol price war, which has now ended, had taken £23 million off net profits.

Mr Adriano said that Sainsbury's would not go all out to regain its number one spot from Tesco at any cost. "We are certainly not setting market share as our goal in the medium or long term. Being the biggest is not always consistent with being the best," he said. Gross margins were stable and showed no changes of change.

Any threat of an all-out price war appeared to recede as Sainsbury's said it was concentrating on offering lower prices for "key items" rather than across its whole range.

Mr Adriano said that if Sainsbury's Bank, which is a joint venture with Bank of Scotland, found it had to repossess any mortgaged property, each case would be considered at board level. But he said that it should not happen often: "We are very pleased with the Bank of Scotland's approach which is very diligent and careful."

Sainsbury's Bank currently offers credit cards and savings accounts. The bank has opened 150,000 accounts in the first ten weeks of operation.

The results included exceptional costs of £50 million for the conversion of Texas DIY stores to Homebase.

Earnings per share were 22p (26.8p). The company is paying a final dividend of 8.8p (8.7p), payable on July 25, giving a full year dividend of 12.3p (12.1p).

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	4537.5 (+18.2)
Yield	3.57%
FTSE All share	2713.9 (+6.54)
Nikkei	20048.90 (-132.02)
New York	7182.78 (-2.54)
Dow Jones	825.25 (-2.51)
S&P Composite	825.25 (-2.51)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	96.7% (96.7%)
Yield	6.33% (6.33%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6.75% (6.75%)
6-month Interbank	11.3% (11.3%)
12-month Interbank	11.3% (11.3%)

STERLING	
New York	1.6368 (1.6332)
London	1.6368 (1.6368)
Frankfurt	2.8128 (2.8190)
Paris	5.4929 (5.5185)
Yen	2.3874 (2.3961)
DM	204.31 (205.24)
£ index	100.3 (100.8)

DOLLAR	
London	1.7218 (1.7245)
DM	5.8068 (5.8190)
Paris	1.4627 (1.4625)
Yen	128.04 (125.38)
£ index	100.3 (100.4)

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Jul)	\$18.30 (\$18.15)

GOLD	
London close	\$348.95 (\$342.85)

* denotes midday trading price

Sales drive

Toyota, the Japanese car manufacturer, is to invest £260 million on expanding its British engine and car body operations for a sales assault on Europe. The move will create an extra 550 jobs, taking the total of workers in Britain to 3,000.

Page 26

Sour note

Sate & Lyle, the sugar and sweeteners group, suffered a final dividend of £83.2 million in its latest half year of trading. The blow helped to reduce pre-tax profits from £168 million to £30 million.

Page 30, Tempus 28

BIB will usher in digital boom

By ERIC REGULIN

THE launch of British Interactive Broadcasting will open a market for new digital products worth billions of pounds a year, say electronics makers.

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that owns 32.5 per cent of BIB, has placed orders for a million digital set-top boxes worth an estimated £500 million. Viewers will need the boxes to receive BIB's interactive services, such as home banking and shopping, and BSKYB's new digital entertainment and sports channels.

BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by The News Corporation, parent company of The Times. BIB's other shareholders are British Telecom, also with 32.5 per cent, Midland Bank, with 20 per cent, and Matsushita, the Japanese electronics company, with 15 per cent.

The set-top boxes are to be made by Matsushita, Amstrad, Pace Micro Technology and a partnership formed by Hyundai of Korea and Grundig, one of Germany's largest consumer electronics groups. Koen Van Driel, chairman of Grundig UK, said the creation of BIB and next year's launch of BSKYB's digital channels will trigger the rapid development of widescreen digital TVs. In the UK alone, this market "could be worth a few billion pounds" a year, he said.

BSkyB reported pre-tax profits of £215 million, up 21 per cent, in the nine months to March 31, on turnover of £913 million, up 24 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

Sutherland to succeed Simon as BP chairman

By OLIVER AUGUST

PETER SUTHERLAND, the former Director-General of Gatt, will succeed Sir David Simon as the chairman of British Petroleum. The appointment is made on an interim basis after Sir David's resignation yesterday to become competition minister in the new Labour Government.

Another senior appointment from industry is due to be confirmed in the next few days when Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News & Media, becomes special adviser to Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade. The unpaid post will take about a day a week of Lord Hollick's time.

There is speculation that Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, may also appoint a special adviser from industry. Among names mentioned have been Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, and Lord Chandos, a merchant banker who sits as a Labour peer.

The Serious Fraud Office inquiry, Operation Gale, was launched after Rom Data, a failed West Country computer firm, received an £850,000 grant, even though the trade department was aware that one of the directors had a troubled financial background.

During the inquiry it emerged that Sebastian Coe, the athlete and recently defeated Conservative MP, acting in his capacity as the local constituency member, had intervened on Rom Data's



Sutherland: interim basis

BP said that the board will consider the appointment of a long-term successor to Sir David in due course. Mr Sutherland has been a deputy chairman of BP since 1995 and is also chairman of Goldman Sachs. The US investment bank said Mr Sutherland will not resign its chairmanship.

Mr Sutherland has been Attorney-General of the Irish Republic and was European

Commissioner with responsibility for competition policy in the 1980s. He was a non-executive director of BP between 1990 and 1993, when he resigned to become Director-General of Gatt and later of the World Trade Organisation. He relinquished this post in 1995 and rejoined BP.

Speculation as to who will eventually succeed Mr Sutherland will centre on John Browne, the chief executive. He is said to be the "reformer protégé" of Sir David.

Mr Browne won admiration throughout BP when he successfully restructured the exploration business, which is at the heart of BP's operations. About half the workforce lost their jobs in the restructuring. It is believed that Mr Browne, if not appointed himself, would reject the hiring of a well-known oil expert, in the vein of Sir David, as chairman. After Sir David's departure, Mr Browne is the undisputed power at BP.

Pennington, page 27

Output fall catches market out

By ALAN MURRAY

MANUFACTURING output unexpectedly slipped back in March presenting the Bank of England with a dilemma when its reformed monetary policy committee meets for the first time next month.

Manufacturing output declined 0.1 per cent in March, compared with a rise of 0.2 per cent in February. The annual rate of increase also dropped sharply from 1.7 to 1.4 per cent.

Andrew Cates, UK economist at UBS, predicted the Bank would leave rates on hold for the moment because of the prospect of some fiscal tightening in the Government's mini-Budget scheduled for July.

The pound slipped from Tuesday's post-BPM high against the mark of DM2.822 to DM2.8126. But shares hit a second consecutive record, the FTSE 100 rose 18.2 to close at 4537.5. Overall industrial output fell 0.1 per cent, with the annual rate declining from 1.3 per cent in February to 0.5 per cent in March.

SFO closes Rom Data file

By ROBERT MILLER

A POLICE investigation into alleged corruption over the way in which more than £100 million of taxpayers' money was poured into companies in the South West that subsequently crashed has been closed with no arrests being made.

The Serious Fraud Office inquiry, Operation Gale, was launched after Rom Data, a failed West Country computer firm, received an £850,000 grant, even though the trade department was aware that one of the directors had a troubled financial background.

John Dawson, a former Conservative city councillor in Bath, had a history of bad debts in Britain and the Caribbean. But the DTI had to admit at a later date that government officials responsible for appraising Rom Data's grant application "were not aware" that Mr Dawson was a discharged bankrupt even though that information was held by the Insolvency Service, a Government agency.

During the inquiry it emerged that Sebastian Coe, the athlete and recently defeated Conservative MP, acting in his capacity as the local constituency member, had intervened on Rom Data's

behalf to secure some funding after the firm ran into difficulties.

Gary Streeter, the re-elected Conservative MP for Plymouth Sutton, was also the subject of complaints by local Labour councillors after Foot and Rowden, the law firm of which he was a partner, appeared to have sold a number of the "off-the-shelf" companies that received grants and then failed. This is a legitimate business, and Mr Streeter was cleared of any wrongdoing by the Law Society's independent complaints bureau.

Continued on page 26, col 5

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Mortgage flexibility for business people



□ Appointment could raise doubts over Chinese walls □ Concern at business leaders jumping the fence □ An idea has its day

□ GORDON BROWN must still be basking in the double delight of having taken the City by surprise and won its approbation. But as a degree of clarity returns to the thought processes of those stunned by his plans to reform the Bank of England, a few qualms are beginning to nigggle.

Mr Brown's declared intention to lift the issue of interest rates right out of the political arena was destined to meet with instant gratitude from the business world. His insistence that there should be no new incarnation of the Ken and Eddie show underscored his professed determination to prevent the personalising of debate over something so serious as interest.

A noble plan but not the easiest to implement. For while Mr Brown, in contrast with his jolly predecessor, may have mastered the art of keeping personality in check, he may find it difficult to people the Bank with a band of similar souls.

The essence of Mr Brown's plan is the new Bank of England committee which is to determine interest rates. On it will sit a new Deputy Governor and four new government appointees. There may be a collection of apologetic individuals now volunteering for the posts. Yet the intelligence in the Square Mile is loudly proclaiming that the front runner for

Is Davies too close to the family?

the vital Deputy Governor's role, which also includes overseeing the Bank's role in monetary policy, is one Gavyn Davies.

The bearded Mr Davies, chief economist at Goldman Sachs, is said to be prepared to give up his whopping City salary in return for a role at the Bank, one which it is predicted could see him succeeding Governor Eddie George before very long.

A willingness to make such a personal sacrifice in the national interest should not be snubbed, but the appointment of Mr Davies could raise doubts over whether Mr Brown had succeeded in his quest for a Chinese wall around interest rate policy. For Mr Davies is no stranger to the close knit core of the Blair administration. There is no secrecy surrounding the fact that his wife, Sue Nye, is Gordon Brown's assistant, but it surely raises a problem of perception, if not fact, in the possible appointment of her husband.

For Downing Street has been taken over by a new first family which extends well beyond Tony,

Cherie and the three photogenic children, who know the spin-doctoring Mr Mandelson as "Uncle Peter". However strong his credentials as an economist, Mr Davies will be perceived as being remarkably close to that family. And as Mr Mandelson knows, perception is all.

And he should also note that while it is widely perceived Mr Davies has a good mind and a capacity for thorough research, his high ranking in City surveys owes more to high profile than accurate forecasting.

Labour relations

□ FUNNY, all these hard-headed businessmen, veterans of a decade or more of firing and downsizing, who are now queuing up to help Tony Blair. One might have thought the man chosen to replace Sir Bob Mortimer at BP would be in the same ruthless Thatcherite mould, but Sir David Simon is now well placed at the top of any list of Labour-luvvies.



from-business. His Europhile credentials seem to have clinched him the job of full-time adviser to the Treasury and Department of Trade and Industry. Businessmen are by nature Euro-inclined — think of those wearying CBI surveys about the importance of joining the common currency, right now — because they tend to disregard airy notions like national sovereignty. But, as a sort of mirror image to the fuss about Tory ministers who engineered this or that privatisation and then joined the board, there is legitimate concern about business leaders jumping over the fence to new Labour.

First, we tend to expect well-

paid executives to work all the hours God sends, not indulge in esoteric and time-consuming hobbies. BP's board takes this view. There can be no financial benefit to the company in having someone so close to the reins of power. In other parts of the world this is called corruption.

Any executive so seconded should have to stand aside from his real job, as Sir David has. The cost-benefit analysis can then be left to them. Business leaders themselves seem to feel that such political connections add personal lustre — one remembers Lord Sterling, who spent almost a decade radiant in glory at Mrs Thatcher's right hand. The main beneficiaries must surely be the recipients of the advice, in this case a new Government with little experience of running anything. The Conservatives' problem was that they were there too long, and ignored any messages from the outside world. Just think of the trouble that could have been avoided. Any competent businessman would have advised against the

poll tax, even if the above Europhilia might not have spared us the exchange-rate mechanism. And all would have given warning against allowing your ministers to take gifts from wealthy men in search of citizenship.

ICI research pays off

□ WHEN Niall FitzGerald recently revealed his plans for taking Unilever out of speciality chemicals, he omitted to mention that it was all the bright idea of a former Unilever executive, Charles Miller Smith. But that was the tale as told yesterday by Mr CMS, who, after nearly two years as chief executive of ICI, is paying Unilever nearly £5 billion to help with the company's restructuring.

Mr FitzGerald may not be thrilled with the purchaser's ebullient insistence that selling the businesses piecemeal would have brought Unilever "significantly more, but, apart from that quibble, this does have the look of a deal that works for both sides.

Miller Smith has maintained a remarkably low profile since arriving at Millbank, but it now appears he has been plotting carefully: he first approached Unilever a year ago. He knows what he has bought and insists that it is real quality.

The benefits to ICI may go beyond the non-dilutive earnings. While his predecessors at ICI had made inroads into shaking up the bureaucratic culture, Miller Smith has made clear his views that the process was by no means complete. With the Unilever management coming on board, he believes he will now have an international gene pool of talent to fish in to equip ICI for the next century.

FitzGerald is not bemoaning the fact that he swallowed the bait.

Take-home trade

□ BUYING a house in Britain is an unnecessarily cumbersome process, but the idea of picking up a mortgage at the supermarket is unlikely to make it any simpler. Neither is it likely to persuade happy householders to be loyal grocery buyers. Instead, it raises the nasty spectre of the grocer having to repossess a customer's home. Marks & Spencer avoided mortgage lending for that very reason.

Whitbread courts older customers as profits top £300m

By FRASIER NELSON

WHITBREAD, the brewing and leisure group, is to invest £500 million in its broad portfolio of businesses this year, targeting older customers.

The company plans to open 250 outlets, in part to increase its share of the market for over-50s, which it expects to outperform the market for young people.

David Thomas, chief executive designate, said that the company — which spent £180 million on acquisitions last year — is now happy with its portfolio of businesses.

He said: "We must ask ourselves who is going to fill our pubs in the future. People are getting older, and are taking more control over their lifestyles. They have more money now, and they want to spend it. Older people did not use to see pubs as somewhere pleasant that they could spend money, but, by providing the sort of food that they enjoy, we are making inroads into the market."

Mr Thomas said that the popularity of Whitbread's



Thomas: opening outlets

Beefeater chain among older people was shown by subscription levels for its Emerald Card — a loyalty scheme for over-55s — now held by more than a million people.

Last year's acquisitions helped pre-tax profits to grow to an expected £303 million for the year to March 1, against £286 million for the previous 53 weeks. Earnings per share rose to 50.8p (46.1p). A 17.5p final dividend, due on July 18, makes a total of 23.8p.

The company plans to open

44 new outlets of Café Rouge, which came with acquisition of the Pelican group last summer, and 80 themed pubs, 40 Travel Inns, 35 Costa Coffees and five new centres for David Lloyd Leisure. More than 5,000 jobs should be created.

Whitbread plans to sell Keg North America, Richardson Inns and three branded three-star hotels and some of its less profitable off-licences.

Mr Thomas said that the company was not concerned about the prospect of a minimum wage. Although he would not cost the various levels, analysts forecast that the impact of a £3.50-an-hour minimum would be negligible. A £4.25 minimum, however, is expected to cost the group an extra £32 million a year.

Whitbread said that the millennium computer bug — in which tills and computers fail to recognise dates in 2000 — was not proving a problem and should have no effect on its balance sheet.

The shares rose 11½p, to 801½p.

Change at the inn, page 29

Dalgaty cuts payout and issues warning

SHARES in Dalgaty, the petfood and agribusiness company, fell 13.5 per cent yesterday as it gave warning of falling profits and gave notice of a cut in dividend (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company also said that Nigel Garrow has resigned as head of the petfoods division. He is to be replaced by Hugh Donaldson, a former colleague of Sir Denis Henderson,

chairman of Dalgaty, from ICI. Second-half profits are set to fall below those of the first half, when Dalgaty made £43 million before tax, down 8 per cent on the previous year.

The company said that it had a disappointing third quarter because of production difficulties at its Southall petfoods plant, the impact of BSE and the strength of sterling. BSE will

cost a further £9 million this year, after having cost the company £15 million last year. Cutting costs in the petfoods division will cost about £27 million.

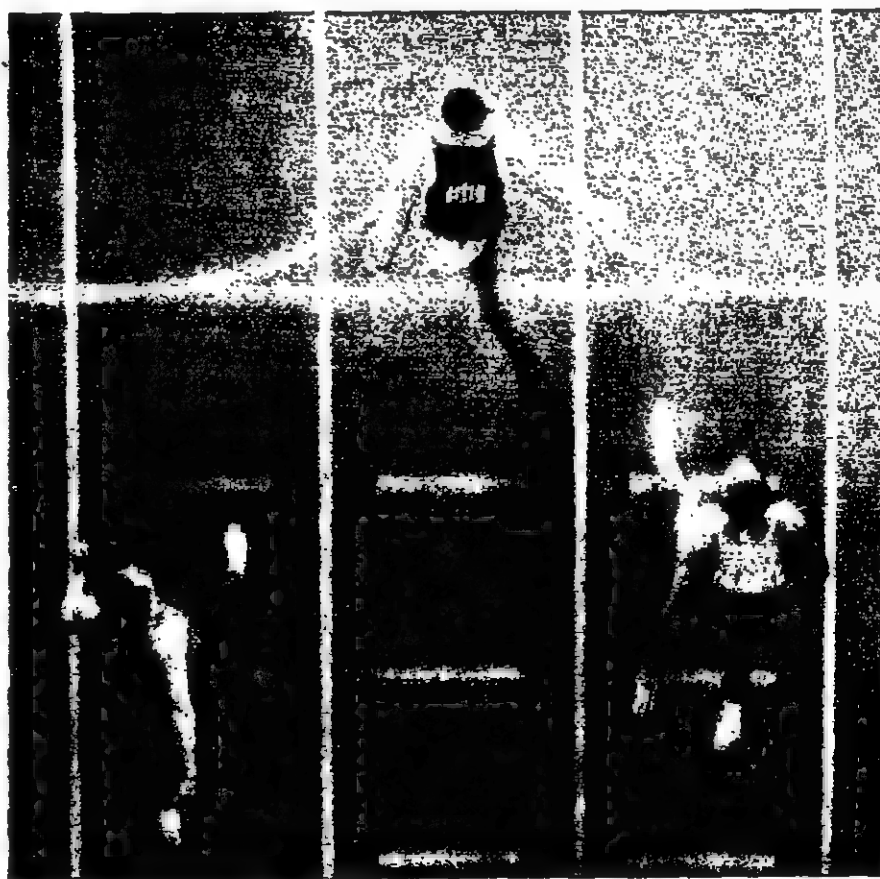
Richard Clothier, chief executive, said that plans for rationalisation of the petfoods division are likely to mean a 10 per cent cut in the 3,700 workforce over the next two years.

To restore cover, the final dividend

is expected to be cut to 6p, from 13.5p a year ago. This would give a total dividend of 14.5p, down from last year's 22p. The shares fell 41½p, to 269p.

Sir Denis said: "The continued underperformance of our petfoods business has led us to conclude that tough action is required to ensure that we are on track to meet our financial objectives, albeit late."

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Royal Bank eyes shoppers in Tesco credit card link

By ROBERT MILLER
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Bank of Scotland yesterday said there will be a July launch of a joint credit card venture with Tesco, and predicted that RBS group profits will exceed £1 billion "in a few years".

George Mathewson, group chief executive of RBS, which yesterday unveiled a 23 per cent rise in interim profits to £369 million, said that the real bonus of the supermarket link with Tesco was that it gave the

bank access to 10 million shoppers who might buy financial services. He said: "The upside is very substantial and the downside very small."

RBS, which lifted its interim dividend to 6.2p, from 5.4p, has cut its cost-to-income ratio within the UK banking division to 57.5 per cent in the six months to March 31, from 61.5 per cent.

Direct Line, the telephone insurance subsidiary, contributed £8 million, up from £5 million previously. The financial services division now has

a mortgage book of £870 million and a savings base of £370 million.

Dr Mathewson restated his belief that building societies are currently overvalued by the City and predicted that more joint ventures, such as those with Banco Santander in Spain, were likely. He said: "The cost of acquisitions does seem high at present. There are better returns from investing in existing businesses."

Tempos, page 28
City Diary, page 29

Vert shares hit low on warning

By FRASIER NELSON

SHARES of Jacques Vert, the troubled women's wear retailer, plunged to a low yesterday as the company said that its autumn and winter fashion range had flopped.

Although like-for-like retail sales gained 18 per cent in the last six months, it has lost £1 million in wholesale orders from House of Fraser and Selfridges. This, it gave warning, will force its losses to exceed the £5 million loss expected by the market. Analysts now expect the company to report £7 million losses.

Although the Grace Collection, the range aimed at a younger market, met expectations, the core Jacques Vert label was shunned by wholesalers who were unable to sell the summer range.

It will pull the remaining 32 of its concessions in the House of Fraser by November this year.

The shares, which have fallen from 180p since last year, dropped 13p to 26½p.

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Tate & Lyle soured by emerging markets

By Adam Jones

THE closure of plants in Ukraine and Bulgaria, combined with a squeeze on sugar margins in China, has forced Tate & Lyle to make provision for a £35 million paper loss.

Its emerging markets problem dragged down already weak interim results, sending the shares down 5½ p to 448½ p.

The sugars and sweeteners group reported a six-month profit before tax and exceptional costs of £113.6 million, compared with £185.9 million last time. Exceptional costs pulled this down by a further £83.2 million, including £29.2 million for a planned reorganisation of its American activities and the write-off of goodwill in underperforming businesses.

This caused a paper loss of

£25.1 million in its animal feed operations, and £34.9 million in emerging markets. Exceptional profit of £6.7 million reduced the deficit.

Emerging markets are seen as central to the long-term profitability of sugar companies because of the growth in pre-packaged food.

The third big blow from emerging markets came from the refining activities in China, where the Government has raised sugar cane prices but maintained a system of unrestricted imports, squeezing margins from two sides.

Larry Pillard, Tate & Lyle chief executive since November 1996, said a team is in Bulgaria now, looking at the possibility of reopening the plant in the light of fiscal improvement.

Profits from Domino, the US sugar refiner, recovered strongly. Mr Pillard said Staley, its cereal starch and sweetener business, performed satisfactorily in relation to competitors, despite lower earnings.

Worldwide sales fell from £2.4 billion to £2.3 billion for the six months.

The company expects improved returns from North American starch and sweetener operations in the second half. Improvements, however, will be affected by continued strength of sterling, which caused the company to lose £17.3 million in the six months.

Analysts' full-year profit expectations now range from £244 million to about £255 million, before exceptional costs and tax.

The company said it is declaring a foreign income dividend this year, payable on July 15, as more profit was made from overseas. Shareholders will get the underlying dividend of 5.3p, unchanged from last year, plus an extra 25 p cent to cover the extra tax faced by many UK institutions.

Tempus, page 28

Statement lifts shares in Booker

SHARES in Booker, the food production group, rose 13½ p to 323p, after a trading statement in which the group said that like-for-like cash-and-carry sales are up 5 p cent year on year.

Jonathan Taylor, chairman, also told shareholders that overall group sales, including Nurdin & Peacock, are up by 36 p cent.

He said: "The group is on track to achieve all its main objectives, including our anticipated increase in earnings and debt reduction in 1997 and 1998."

"In food distribution, the integration of the Nurdin & Peacock cash and carry business is proceeding... as planned. We are initially reviewing the future of cash-and-carry depots in 13 locations."



Jay Kay, of Jamiroquai, sold a million copies of *Travelling Without Moving* in Japan

Sony hits wrong note over profits

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN TOKYO

SONY MUSIC, the recording company of Michael Jackson and Bruce Springsteen, blamed a lack of big hits for a 33 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £280 million (¥663 million) in the year to March 31.

The record company, affiliated to Sony Corp, the electronics group, suffered a 10 per cent decline in sales to ¥103.1 billion.

Sony has invested heavily in new artists, particularly in Japan, a market that accounts for more than half of the company's business. Japanese artists such as Judy and Mary, Puffy and Dreams Come True have been well received. Sales of records by home-grown artists eased 6.5 per cent but that compensated favourably with a 12.2 per cent decline in sales of music by non-Japanese music, despite the popularity of some of its artists, such as Celine Dion and Mariah Carey.

Classical music sales increased steadily.

In the financial year to 1998, Sony forecasts pre-tax profit of ¥145 billion on revenue of ¥215.6 billion.

Sony's custom manufacturing division was the only product group that reported an increase in sales in 1996-97. Net sales rose 4.1 per cent mainly because of robust demand for CD-Roms for software used in PlayStation, Sony Computer Entertainment's hit home video game machine.

PowerGen in £150m project with Siemens

POWERGEN, the UK electricity generation company, and Siemens, the German industrial group, have agreed to build and operate a £150 million development centre in Britain to test and demonstrate gas turbine technology in a commercial combined-cycle power plant. The joint venture, announced yesterday, clears the way for the construction of the Cotnam Development Centre at the site of PowerGen's existing Cotnam power station in Nottinghamshire.

The new facility, which will have capacity up to 500 megawatts, will test plant through prolonged demonstration runs rather than brief test-bed trials. Work will start this month and will create up to 500 construction jobs. When completed the centre will employ up to 50 staff. The venture comes after Department of Trade and Industry agreement to build a 24-kilometre gas pipeline from Cotnam to the national gas transmission system at Blyborough, Lincolnshire.

Ruling on Renault site

THE Court of Appeal in Versailles has ruled that Renault, the car maker, must call a meeting of its European works council representing employees before it can close its Vilvoorde plant in Belgium. Renault had appealed against a ruling by a Nanterre court that it had not followed proper procedures in deciding to shut Vilvoorde. Unions had applied to the Nanterre court. Renault had planned to close Vilvoorde at the end of July. The plant employs 3,100 staff.

Grant merger denied

BURN STEWART, the distillers, said there are no talks in progress that might lead to a merger with William Grant. In a statement responding to speculation, Burn Stewart said: "There has been a trading relationship between the two companies which goes back for many years and this is expected to continue. Some months ago the possibility of a closer relationship was contemplated, but these talks were not taken any further." Shares in Burn Stewart slipped 1p to 59p.

EIB backs film project

THE European Investment Bank, the lending arm of the European Union, is lending 71 million euros to PolyGram to help it to produce European films. ING Bank will underwrite the project, the EIB said. Sir Brian Urwin, the EIB president, said: "This is the first time the EIB has financed the film industry." The EIB said that the money would be used by PolyGram to shoot films predominantly within the EU aimed at a "family audience".

HTV in licence plea

HTV GROUP, the television broadcaster for Wales and the West of England, called on the Independent Television Commission to publish its licence renewal and to ensure that Channel 3 licences are awarded on an individual basis. Louis Sherwood, group managing director, said HTV's annual meeting yesterday that the group and HTV are to be able to plan accurately for the next period. It was essential to know whether Channel 3 licence renewals will be.

SeaCon forecast

SEA CONTAINERS, the Cardiff-based owner of Great North Eastern Railway and Hoverspeed, expects to double its earnings per share this year. James Sherwood, SeaCon's founder and president, said in the company's annual report that profits from its core activities should hit a £24.5 million record. Overall, the group's forecast operating profits for 1997 of £98.2 million, up from £66.7 million. That should, he said, double last year's earnings per share of 73p.

BAA seeks Asia-Pacific hub

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

BAA, the UK airport operator, yesterday unveiled plans to own a string of airports throughout the Asia-Pacific region after its successful joint venture bid for Australia's Melbourne airport for A\$1.31 billion (about £617 million).

The Australian Government confirmed yesterday that the BAA-led consortium, known as Australia Pacific Airports, had been awarded a 50-year lease to run Melbourne's Tullamarine airport as part of the first

tranche of its airport privatisation programme.

Andrew Jurek, the consortium's chief executive said: "Australia Pacific Airports is focused on becoming the leading airport operator in the Asia-Pacific. The purchase of Tullamarine provides the perfect platform to launch our airport business in the region. We are already in negotiations in Bali and looking at other acquisitions in the region." Under the deal Australia

Pacific Airports, which also includes AMP and Arrium, the Australian fund managers, has agreed to reduce aeronautical charges at Melbourne by at least 18.5 per cent over the next five years.

The Australian Government also announced the sale of Brisbane airport to a consortium headed by Amsterdam's Schiphol airport for A\$1.39 billion and Perth airport to a consortium led by Airport Group Holdings for

A\$643 million. Two other British-led groups, headed by Manchester airport and National Express, had hoped to secure one of the airports, but failed to make it past the shortlist.

Prices paid for the three airports far exceeded the market's initial expectations of just A\$2 billion for the sale of all 23 airports in Australia. The Australian Government plans to sell the remaining airports in batches over the next year.

When there's no smoking gun

Rik Workman looks at how fraud leaves only a lengthy paper trail

Fraud is a crime unlike any other. There is usually no witness who "saw" what happened, no smoking gun, no getaway car — just mountains of paperwork and endless lists of bank account transactions to sift through.

These days, money is diverted, moved or hidden on the signing of a document and the press of a computer key. For each transaction, there is a mass of paper generated to evidence it. Any corrupt individual with a desktop PC can manufacture credible documentary evidence. If that individual can then persuade colleagues to join him, there is a risk of serious fraud. If they can get customers to join the scam, fraud is almost unstoppable.

Abbas Gokal, the BCCI fraudster who is due to be sentenced today, was such an individual. As chairman of the Gulf shipping group, he was the key figure in a deep-rooted and well-camouflaged conspiracy with BCCI to steal money from the bank's depositors and to con Price Waterhouse, its auditors. He was the largest borrower from BCCI and, together with the bank, deceived PW in a systematic manner.

Gokal relied upon a raft of his senior managers to lend credence to his deceptions and was prepared to mislead a number of more junior em-

ployees as to the purposes for which their signatures on documents were required. BCCI itself had its own "factory" dedicated solely to the production of false documents. A case perhaps of job creation at its most extreme! In the latter days of fraud, staff were physically collapsing under the strain of having to create so much paper and juggle millions of dollars in fictitious transactions. Fraud can seriously damage your health.

Together Gokal and BCCI moved money in circles around the world, from bank account to bank account, all the time seeking to convince the world that both BCCI and Gulf were profitable and solid.

My colleagues and I discovered that money arriving in many of these Gulf accounts originated from other bogus Gulf accounts, and our task was to prove this. This demanded banking and corporate documentation from many different banks in a number of international jurisdictions. The loss or destruction of documents, or the inability to acquire them from certain difficult territories can frustrate the tracing of the money and render the evidential value of that particular line of investigation worthless.

Many of Mr Gokal's private bank accounts were held in Switzerland. That country's well-publicised bank secrecy



Rik Workman says the BCCI case offers lessons

laws may have encouraged the belief that such sources can prove impenetrable to even the most determined fraud investigator. But our experience was quite the reverse: we had excellent co-operation from the authorities there.

We benefited, in particular, from the Swiss legal obligation for banks to keep their detailed records on individual transactions for a period of ten years. This is in stark contrast to the situation in Britain. Although money laundering

regulations now require supporting records to be kept for five years, our case preceded the introduction of these, and we found that many of the supporting details of the transactions on those statements that we required had been destroyed.

Guidance notes that explain the relevant regulations are not mandatory for authorised banks and their retention policies on original documents appear to be determined largely by commercial considerations, such as the costs of storage and minimising.

In many other SFO inquiries focused in the UK, these policies can prove to be formidable obstacles to effective fraud investigation. Perhaps the lesson of a major fraud like BCCI is that the retention law should be tougher: many frauds extend back further than five years, particularly when investigations are protracted.

The Gokal case also underlines the fact that large financial fraud ignores international boundaries. With money moving around the world's financial centres with great ease and speed, the need for co-operation and co-ordinated action by the world's authorities has never been greater.

Unfortunately, there are nations such as the Bahamas and Seychelles, that continue to obstruct assistance to others in tracing assets, retrieving documents and records for investigative use, and so allow fraudsters to evade prosecution and to continue to profit from their criminal actions.

The need for co-operation between international authorities has led to the establishment of a Mutual Legal Assistance Division at the SFO. The aim is to show other countries that the UK will assist them in their efforts to seek information and documents from entities based in this country. There will, however, always be nations where the establishment of such an office would simply be bad for business.

Rik Workman is a litigation support manager with Neville Russell

Andersens acquires international accent

THE success of Andersen Worldwide is little short of phenomenal. In 1993, when Jim Wadia was appointed managing partner at Arthur Andersen in the UK, it posted global revenues of \$6 billion. Now, with Wadia on the threshold of running the worldwide organisation, it has managed almost \$6 billion of revenue just in the six months to the end of February.

It is hard for people outside the organisation to grasp the scale of what is going on. It is not that Andersen is secretive. It is more that it is a determined organisation that sticks close to the business culture of its US roots in Chicago. And that culture says it is dynamic but self-contained. As Wadia once said of his partners: "You couldn't find a more individualistic bunch and they have a freedom to express themselves within a culture that is second nature to them. It becomes an instinct."

So it was that last week a high proportion of Andersen Worldwide's 2,700 partners were in Paris to decide on the future. The issues were simple. Larry Weinbach, Andersen Worldwide's chief executive, is standing down at the end of February. So there was a vacancy at the very top to be sorted out. And then there was the organisation itself. Since 1989 Andersen Worldwide has consisted of two separate units: Arthur Andersen, the original accounting and business organisation, and Andersen Consulting. And the strains and stresses that led to the separation in 1989 are tougher these days. Arthur Andersen has more partners and more votes than Andersen Consulting. But Andersen Consulting is growing fastest and a year ago finally overtook its parent company. And the growth differential continues. In the six months to February Andersen Consulting's revenue grew 25 per cent. Arthur Andersen's grew 12 per cent.

Also Arthur Andersen, once simply an accounting firm, is now into an ever-widening range of professional services and in some areas trades heavily on Andersen Consulting's turf. George Sheehy, the head of Consulting, complains about this in good homespun American fashion. "It's difficult for two brothers to date the same girl," is how he once summed it up.

So Paris was the culmination of a long and much fought-over campaign to find a structural way forward. Plans for splitting the organisation into further separate business units had been banded about over the months before. But in Paris the instinct of culture first,

organisation second, held sway. The proposal to hold everything together drew 95 per cent support from partners. When they see consensus, partners tend to close ranks. But what that doesn't take away is the tensions. So the focus switched to the question of who should lead the firm when Weinbach steps down.

The processes within a partnership differ to those of the blunt and public world of companies. In Andersen's trust partners elect a nomination committee with equal representation from the two organisations. It takes soundings and recommends a slate of partners. The board considers these and recommends one name to the partnership. A two-thirds vote is required to appoint the new supreme.

Burt Parisi, managing director of Arthur Andersen in the UK, was the head of the nomination committee. He was on the slate. But so was Jim Wadia, Andersen's UK managing director. The partners had to choose between the two. An "informal" vote on the decision was taken. Sheehy's name was chosen.

platform drew support at 90 per cent. Wadia's a lesser 60 per cent. The board promptly put Wadia forward as the chosen one. Rumours were swiftly denied. The majority could support either man "and that is what's important," said a spokesman. But the choice of Wadia is both an upset and farsighted. He will be the first non-American to run Andersen. But he is the man they need. His roots are unconventional. He is a Parsi, born in Bombay, educated in Geneva, married to a Frenchwoman, international and calm. He qualified first as a barrister, then moved to the small firm of

Chalmers Impey to qualify as an accountant, and then moved to Andersen as a tax expert. His style is simple and uncluttered. He talks to people, gets their views, takes a decision and gets on to the next issue. He made his name in the tax practice through clear analysis. On one occasion he noticed that a disproportionate number of multinational companies were operating out of Sweden, but none of the big accounting firms had a specialist partner on site to handle the work. He appointed one on short notice. The ballot papers go on shortly. In August Wadia will be in command. But in reality it is the Andersen culture that will win again and keep pulling in revenues. The difference is that it will now have a more international accent.



ROBERT BRUCE

Thistle sting

SCOTTISH football supporters are not supposed to spread sweetness and light. But a bizarre press notice this week suggests otherwise. It comes from Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, and Ron Paterson, his arch-critic from Ernst & Young. Tweedie once described Paterson's attack on the ASB's statement of principles as hav-

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ing "the vision of a mole and the eloquence of a whoopee cushion". But the likelihood of Falkirk finishing the season one place ahead of Partick Thistle in the Scottish League has changed everything. Tweedie supports Falkirk, Paterson Thistle. Traditionally a bottle of whisky is bet on final positions. "The scales have fallen from my eyes," says

Paterson. "I acknowledge that Falkirk deserve to be ranked with the all-time greats, such as Real Madrid, Juventus and Maryhill Juniors."

Wrong target

JOHN ANDREWES is an esteemed tax partner at Coopers & Lybrand. He will shortly take over as the president of

the Chartered Institute of Taxation. So it is all the stranger that the firm of Kingston Smith should send him a malshot on tax. The personal letter, addressed to him at the institute, includes the helpful statement: "I enclose a leaflet which will assist in deciding if self-assessment will affect you." Time to cleanse that mailing list.

Going rates

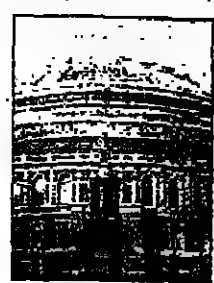
THIS year's annual accounts of the English ICA, published today, show the pay of Andrew Colquhoun, chief executive for the first time. Anthea Rose, chief executive of the certified accountants, received brickbats from members over her £108,000 pay, revealed last year. Now she should argue about catching up. Colquhoun takes home £124,000.

ROBERT BRUCE

Equities at new high as gilts fade

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	99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MUSIC 1
From Tudor
motets to
Cleo Laine, the
Proms range
wider still
and wider



MUSIC 2
Sir Colin
Davis takes
a magisterial
approach to
Brahms and
Beethoven

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 1
A triumphant
night for
the Fugees
as they expand
their appeal to
fill Wembley Arena



POP 2
... and Nanci
Griffith gives
a tour de force,
in a bittersweet
vein, at the
Olympia in Dublin

MUSIC: A guide to the world's greatest music festival; plus a review of the London Symphony Orchestra in top form

Twenty cheers for the '97 Proms

Most solemn: The Proms traditionally open with something massive, choral and morally improving — notwithstanding a delicious deviation (in every sense) into one of Strauss's more bloodthirsty operas a year or two ago. This season, solemnity is restored. The First Night (Jul 13) sees hundreds of singers and players crammed into the Albert Hall for Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, conducted by Bernard Haitink.

Least solemn: Some 73 concerts later, the Last Night (Sept 13) lives up to its eclectic reputation, including Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* (sung by Anne Evans) and Gershwin's *Variations on I Got Rhythm*, to say nothing of silly hats, Union Jacks, and an Irish Reel by Britten.

Lowest: The jubilantly named Ensemble Bash will surely give a thumping good account of percussion music from many different traditions in a late-night Prom (Jul 23). But will it match the decibel count from Robert Wallace's bagpipes, featured in Edward McGuire's *Calgacus* (Aug 18)?

Newest: There are more than 30 premieres this year, from established figures such as Iannis Xenakis, Peter Maxwell Davies, Elliott Carter and Magnus Lindberg, as well as newish names like the American enfant terrible Michael Gordon. He was brought up "in the Nicaraguan jungle" and now writes pieces with titles such as *Yo, Shakespeare* and *Love Bead*. I just hope that all the new works are actually finished on time this year.

Oldest: Written five centuries ago, the *Magnificat Regale* by

More concerts, more premieres, more broadcasts... and Des Lynam hired to complete the introductory CD. The 103rd season of Henry Wood Promenade Concerts will not be short of bulk or innovation. But what of its quality? RICHARD MORRISON identifies 20 superlatives in the 1997 season

Robert Fayrfax is performed by the BBC Singers (Aug 15). Fayrfax was the composer selected by Henry VIII to accompany him to the Field of the Cloth of Gold, where his music was sung by combined French and English choirs. Perhaps some inspirational harmonies might improve the quality of present-day European summits.

Youngest: The number of youth orchestras at the Proms seems to increase each year. Cynics will point out that they are cheap. But let's not be cynical: such ensembles as the National Youth Orchestra (Aug 9), the (mainly East European) Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra (Aug 12), the National Youth Chamber Orchestra (Aug 24) and the European Union Youth Orchestra (Sept 9) are outstanding by any standards. The youngest audience, however, will undoubtedly be the thousands of children packing the Junior Prom on Sept 8 — and next Tuesday *The Times* will run a competition to give away 400 tickets for that.

Sleaziest: Meanwhile, the entertainment on Aug 3 is strictly for adults only. Kurt Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins* and Mahagonny, both scathing satires on decadence and degradation, will be staged — doubtless very saucily — by

Mecklenburgh Opera. The host of Sir Henry Wood will surely turn on its plinth.

Hottest: And after the sinners, a couple of saints. Honegger's wonderful "dramatic tableau", *Joan of Arc at the Stake*, is semi-staged (Jul 27) with the actress Fiona Shaw emoting the main role. I saw her do it at the Brighton Festival, and she generated more electricity than the average power station. Two days later (Jul 29), the Halle Orchestra plays extracts from Debussy's posterously camp but beautiful *Martyrdom of Saint Sebastian*.

Most authentic: John Eliot Gardiner's interpretation of Beethoven's *Choral Symphony* (Aug 10) with his grandly named Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique won't be the first Prom performance of the Ninth on period instruments. But when Gardiner did it in Salisbury last year he sent the critics into spasms of ecstasy, so this should be a Prom to remember.

Most erotic: I don't suppose that the magnificent players of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra will remove anything more daring than their jackets, but they do conclude their Proms visit (Sept 2-3) with the Dance of the Seven Veils from Strauss's

Salome. Other visiting orchestras include the Kirov (Aug 14), Budapest Festival (Aug 15), Dallas Symphony (Aug 24) and Leipzig Gewandhaus (Aug 27-28).

Most favoured composer: In their anniversary years Brahms, Schubert, Mendelssohn and Korngold all get reasonable deference. But only Britten has a whole weekend devoted to his music (Aug 16-17). It includes the Westminster Abbey Choir singing the lovely *Ceremony of Carols*.

Most relentlessly chirpy performers: I don't really mind the King's Singers skipping from Renaissance madrigals to Lennon and McCartney in one late-night Prom (Jul 31). I just wish they would cut out those silly grins.

Fishest Prom: Extracts from Frank Zappa's *The Yellow Shark* will be performed in a Prom (Jul 20) that otherwise trawls through the shallows of American minimalism. High-brow critics will scoff, but the Albert Hall will be packed.

Funniest: Well, humour is a subjective thing, but *The Gondoliers* is supposed to be comic (Aug 2), and if Gilbert and Sullivan isn't your thing there is always Rossini's farcical opera *Count Ory*, which Glyndebourne forces are semi-staging on Aug 25.

Earthiest: Folk music is a theme running through this season, but nowhere more strongly than in the late-night Prom on Aug 8, when the all-male Rusavi Choir from Georgia offers traditional fare. *Basso* doesn't come more *prout* than in these great Caucasian choirs: once heard, never forgotten.



This year's Proms include (from left) Solti, Schubert, Britten, Fiona Shaw as St Joan, Haitink, Glennie and Davis

Rarest: Well, have you ever heard Brahms's "heroic cantata" *Rinaldo*? Don't miss it when the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra plays it on Sept 7: it might not reappear in our lifetimes.

Deadliest: It's a great year for Requiem: take your choice from Verdi (Sept 12), Brahms (Sept 10) or Britten (Aug 17).

Jazziest: Hard to believe it, but Cleo Laine and John Dank-

worth are 70 this year. Homage will be paid in a Prom (Aug 29) by the BBC Big Band and Concert Orchestra that includes Ellington and Gershwin classics as well as the premiere of a new Dankworth piece.

Most poignant: Composing his oratorio *Jephtha*, Handel had reached the words "How dark O Lord are Thy decrees, all hid from mortal sight" when his own sight failed. It

was to be his last oratorio — and his finest, say some Handel devotees. Sir Charles Mackerras conducts a top-class cast (Sept 1).

Most virtuosic: Performing at the Proms — with that huge, standing audience packed in just a few feet away — must be the most terrifying assignment in classical music. But great performers rise to the occasion. Watch out for Evelyn Glennie, the amazing percus-

sionist who premieres a new concerto by Jonathan Harvey (Jul 26), Maxim Vengerov, the young Russian superstar violinist who plays Shostakovich on Sept 10, and Evgeny Kissin, the astonishing 25-year-old pianist who gives the first full-length solo Proms recital in 103 years (Aug 10).

• The BBC Proms '97 Guide (£3.99) out this week, has a priority booking form. Booking opens May 21; telephone booking (0171-580 8212) from June 10

Discoveries in great company

CONCERT
LSO/Davis
Barbican

Only confident singing from the FCMG and Colin Davis's careful conducting got the balance right, although very few words came across. An unforgettable account of Beethoven's Violin Concerto followed, with Anne-Sophie Mutter, the soloist. Her big, generous tone was coloured and shaded for intensity. She tore into both cadenzas with extraordinary virtuosity but also heartfelt passion that never contradicted the yearning, quieter poignancy of the rest of her playing.

Brahms's First Symphony is an almost Beethovenian work, and Davis stressed the brooding struggles of the opening movement. His tempos were majestic, even slow, but the performance led towards a finale of red-hot fervour. Both this and the Beethoven, familiar works, sounded newly inspiring. Davis is one of the great conductors of today, and the LSO is one of the great orchestras.

JOHN ALLISON

Street-smart and user-friendly

POP
Fugees
Wembley Arena

any lingering doubts about the ability of hip hop acts to project themselves in an arena environment were swiftly dispelled by Fugees on the first of two nights at this 12,000-capacity venue. Having taken rap to the heart of the pop mainstream with their multi-million selling album *The Score*, the three vocalists from New Jersey have now adapted their street-corner performing style to encompass the stagecraft of a heavy rock act.

Their entrance resembled an SAS operation as Wydel "Clef" Jean swung in from the wings on a rope amid a barrage of exploding fireworks. Strapping on a guitar, he led the backing band — bass, drums and record decks — into an emotionally charged rendition of Bob Marley's *No Woman, No Cry*. The crowd went nuts, and a lot of performers would have settled for such a reaction at the very climax of their set. Fugees were only just beginning.

Prakazrel "Fras" Michel was next to arrive. Swinging in from an elevated section at the back to the soundtrack from *Mission Impossible*, he kept on running, leapt over the lip of the stage and treated the front rows of the

audience to a hands-on greeting. The pregnant Lauryn "L" Hill, who wisely elected to walk on, then launched into an endearing version of the Jackson Five's *I Want You Back* with words altered

to tell the tale of when Fugees came to London. With their slick adaptations of hoary pop standards including Bob Dylan's *Knockin' On Heaven's Door* and the inevitable *Killing Me Softly*, they pursued a populist strategy with a single-minded determination that was more Peter, Paul and Mary than Public Enemy. And yet, shuffling and bouncing around the stage in their baggy clothes and

Timberland boots (minus laces), they maintained credibility with a succession of harder hip hop numbers, interspersed with their trademark "refugee" raps. They were rewarded with one of the most unequivocal demands for an encore I can remember, and obliged with a nail-hard version of Cowboys. Fugees certainly rocked this house.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Live in the hall of fame

Nanci Griffith
Dublin

fairly low-key fashion before Griffith, in her soft, almost polite vocal style, essayed a multi-lingual version of the song which made her famous in this part of the world. *From a Distance*.

The arrival of special guests the Crickets upped the ante. Normally, when a singer introduces a song by announcing that it was written by the drummer about his first wife, one should make one's excuses and leave. But when the singer is Sonny Curtis, the drummer

J. J. Alison and the song Peggy Sue, one has no option but to sit back and marvel. Having led the band through all of Buddy Holly's best-loved songs, Curtis was joined by the Blue Moon Orchestra for a rousing version of his classic, *I Fought the Law*.

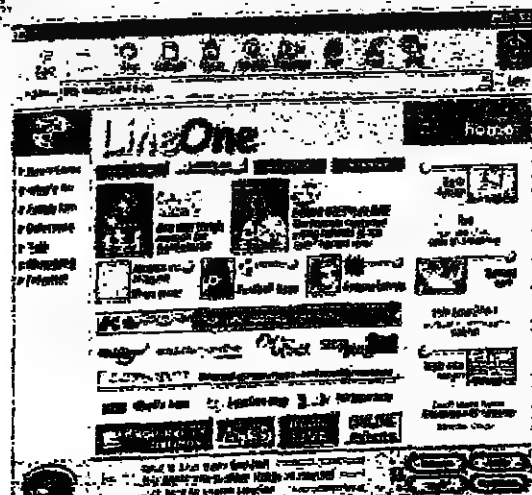
After an interval, Griffith was back centre stage, showcasing songs from her new album, *Blue Roses from the Moons*. With songs that are by turns melancholic and buoyant, and performed flawlessly by the finest players around, this show is a tour de force.

NICK KELLY

EN
O
La
traviata

Tonight
May 14 | 20 | 23 | 28 | 30
June 12 | 14 | 18
20 | 23 at 7.30pm
May 17 at 6.30pm
Tickets from £6.50

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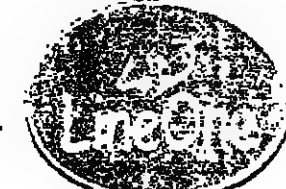
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CHOICE 1

Corin Redgrave is Marat in Jeremy Sams's production of *Marat/Sade*

VENUE: In preview from tonight at the Olivier

CHOICE 2

Jonathan Miller's *La Traviata* is revived by English National Opera

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Coliseum in London

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 1

Prima donna portrayed: *Master Class* is an absorbing Terrence McNally play about Maria Callas

THEATRE 2

... but at Chichester *Lady Windermere's Fan* barely comes to life, despite sumptuous frocks

For whom the curtain calls

Straight or (a better word here) straightforward plays do not run a year and a half on Broadway without being either decidedly bad or decidedly good. I know operas which would place Terrence McNally's *Master Class* in the first category, arguing that its portrait of Maria Callas in the schoolroom cheapens a complex woman for the sake of glib laugh-lines. But when I saw Zoe Caldwell in the role 18

THEATRE

Master Class

Queens

months ago I was hugely taken by her performance, and concluded that there must be something right with a piece which allowed her to embody fastidiousness, irony, egoism, rigour, bitterness, vulnerability and more.

I still feel that way, even though Patti LuPone lacks the same range. She is effective when painful memories come heaving up from her stomach; less so when it comes to catching the astingness, the Greek blues, the brusque pride. "Rivals? How can you have rivals when no one else can do what you do?" LuPone would doubtless sing better than Caldwell, but McNally's Callas does so only for a sad moment meant to demonstrate that, by 1971, when the play occurs, the great voice was in ruins.

McNally conceived the play as a solo turn, then added a pianist and three aspiring singers, transposed the action to Juilliard for the Broadway production, and now relocates it in a vaguely Grecian hall. This means that although Callas dominates the stage even when she retreats to her stool with a disingenuous "Poo! I'm invisible", her monomaniacal commitment to her Muse comes across more dramatically.



Patti LuPone as Maria Callas and David Shrubsole, musical supervisor and onstage accompanist, in *Master Class*

She injects a little soul into the plump girl in frilly pink (Sophia Wylie) who thrills through Aminta's lament in *La Sonnambula* sounding as if she has lost a chocolate bar to the school bully, not a rural Onassis to a pristine Jackie Kennedy. She browbeats a cocky tenor (David Anderson) into giving a performance of *Recondita armonia* from Tosca that briefly reduces her to tears. She is denounced as a destructive and self-destructive

monster by the edgy, ambitious soprano (Susan Roper) she has guided through Lady Macbeth's letter-reading scene. By then it is clear that Callas is a lot more than that. There are times when neither McNally's script nor LuPone's performance disguises the tension inherent in an evening that asks us both to laugh at the wayward diva and respect the dedicated professional and wounded woman. Perhaps the

cracks (as at Sutherland's "12-foot Lucia di Lammermoor") are sometimes too easy. Perhaps the aperçus about art ("the theatre is a sacred place") can chunk a bit. But the play has its hilarious moments, and Callas's credo, that singing requires both total exposure of the self and under-attention to technical detail, surely bears the repetition it gets here.

And the Callas blot? That comes in asides and in two longish episodes when the stage darkens, LuPone's haggard face is spotted, and the voice of the singer is heard on disc, while the woman remembers Onassis's noisome boastfulness and contempt for her music. Some of this, notably the time he forced her to have an abortion, feels skimpily. But it helps to remind us who Callas was, and why.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Ham cuts no mustard

does ballroom battle with a glamorous middle-aged woman. Mrs Erynn's mysterious hold over Tim Waller's squeaky clean Lord Windermere fuels adulterous suspicions, while he cannot dance them without tainting the honour of his wife.

Cottrell directs with all the melodramatic stunts pulled out. Forehead on forehead, hand on heart, O'Neal delivers her wronged wife speeches as if she is about to be dragged off by men with cloaks and daggers. You can almost hear bodies ripping as Lady Windermere and Mrs Erynn are caught in

Lord Darlington's rooms after lights out. Letting her steely dignity slip, Stephanie Beacham's Mrs Erynn uses her moment of maternal passion to unleash even more vintage histrionics.

For the rest of the cast it's a bit like dressage. They come trotting on, left foot forward, make their brittle comedy contribution and retreat, usually harnessed to a wife. The glorious exception to all this overacting is the interplay between James Wallace's twentysomething Cedric Graham and John McCallum's Lord Lorton. Here

the malicious wit of a young, upper-class untouchable cuts funny stripes off a crusty moral ditherer.

It is left to Google Wylde's Duchess of Berwick to instal a pacemaker on fervently beating hearts. She sails through the production like the Queen Mother celebrating her 26th birthday, all bosom, feathers and parasol, wrapping scandal up in a blanket like a Victorian agony aunt. If only she could have stifled the needless excesses of this baroque melodrama.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Reviews of classical CDs and videos will appear tomorrow

LONDON

MARAT-SADE Corin Redgrave plays Marat, David Calder the Marquis and Annette Hild plays Charlotte. Corday is Jeremy Sams's first-hand production of the 18th-century drama in freedom and history.

NATIONAL (Olivier) South Bank, SE1. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm.

MY MOTHER SAID I NEVER SHOULD Chorus: Family's classic exploration of the mother-daughter bond, said to be the most frequently performed play in Britain. Dominic Cook directs. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm.

LA TRAVIATA Lough Loughman directs. English National Opera in a revival of Jonathan Miller's production of Verdi's tragic heroine. Susan Fosteron returns to the role of the courtesan Violetta with Christopher Booth-Jones and Julian Gough as the father and son who bring Violetta to such a cruel end.

COLLEGE St Martin's Lane, WC2. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm.

BAILEY GARDNER Welcome revival of Tom Murphy's dramatic play where Rosalind Wiseman's Marlene keeps her daughter (Bridget) from leaving the house in suspense, waiting to hear the climax of a tale of disaster. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Disney's famous musical is a Broadway smash. Alan Ayckmore and Alan Ayckmore, as the Beast, with support from the likes of Derek Griffiths and Norman Rossington.

CRACKED In Daniel Hill's outrageous comedy set in the desert, a cast of nine men, including Anthony Hall and Alexander Hanson, play members of an army unit intended to hold the front line. Under pressure, they fall apart.

FRANKLY SCARLETT Farouk Abdul Wahid's comedy about the making of that film about the Chinese. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm.

THE BOY FROM MERCURY (PG) A comedy about a boy who is a genius. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm. 10.15. 12.25. 2.25. 7.30pm.

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mazzy

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FILM 1
Kolya
delightfully
observed portrait
of 1960s Prague
seen through
Czech eyes



FILM 2
... whereas
the risible
Anaconda
serves us a
preposterous
40ft snake

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3
Racism and a
quest for
legal justice
fuel the
earnest Ghosts
from the Past



FILM 4
With Kids Return,
Takeshi Kitano
delivers a mature
and searching
look at disaffected
Japanese youth

Touched by a little genius

**CINEMA: Geoff Brown is won
over by the honest charm of an old
man and a young boy in Kolya**

So where would you like to travel this week? A cardboard cut-out? Mississippi, the Brazilian rainforest, Hollywood's view of 18th-century London, or Prague? Let's go to Prague, a city last seen on international screens as Tom Cruise's playground in *Mission Impossible*. But in the enchanting *Kolya*, winner of this year's Best Foreign Film Oscar, you can experience the city through Czech eyes.

The time is 1969, in the months before the Velvet Revolution. The hero is Louka, a middle-aged musician and ladies' man, who faces a personal crisis. Kolya is the crisis. He is a five-year-old Russian boy, the son of a Russian woman who becomes Louka's wife in a paper marriage. When Kolya's mother skedaddles to West Germany, Louka finds himself landed with this bemused urchin, who speaks no Czech. Crusty bachelor meets adorable rascal, no wonder the film was acquired for distribution by Disney.

But there is nothing overly sentimental about this fourth feature from Jan Svěrák, most prominent of the young Czech directors. Certainly it is heart-warming, but every rise in temperature is achieved by careful observation of ordinary life, spry comic timing, and the gentlest humour. For some of these virtues, Svěrák must thank his father Zdeněk, an actor and screenwriter who has often worked with the Czech New Wave veteran Jiří Menzel. As well as writing the script, the elder Svěrák invests Louka with a ragamuffin charm.

Menzel's own films have suffered from an overdose of bucolic nostalgia: in the 1980s and 1990s it was a way of playing safe. But *Kolya* can afford to be heady-eyed about life under Communist rule. We learn how Louka, a cellist defrocked by the Czech Phil-

Kolya
Curzon Mayfair
12, 105 mins
Enchanting Czech
Oscar winner

Anaconda
Odeon Leicester Square
15, 99 mins
Daffy doling in
Brazil's rainforest

**Ghosts from
the Past**
Warner West End
15, 131 mins
Simplistic race
relations drama

Kids Return
ICA Cinema, 107 mins
Thoughtful film from
Takeshi Kitano

Moll Flanders
ABC Shaftesbury Ave
12, 122 mins
Moll becomes dull



"He endears himself without acting cute or crying on cue": Andrej Chalmov, the young Russian playing a young Russian in the Oscar-winning *Kolya*

sucks the life from most of the cast but leaves Jan Voight free to snarl, flash his evil eyes and chew the Brazilian rainforest. Like 1995's *Congo*, this is a B-movie writ large, which assumes that bursts of high-tech effects will hide an impossible, antique script. They do not.

We begin aboard an Amazon river barge chugging along with a documentary film crew in search of an Indian tribe. Jennifer Lopez is its director; Eric Stoltz is the anthropologist, while Ice Cube wields the camera. Their first mistake is rescuing Voight's adventurer from his stranded boat; their second is letting him steer them towards his secret prey, a 40ft anaconda. Designed by Walt Conti, who engineered the whales in *Free Willy*, it never looks real for a moment.

Most of the cast, at least, show a fighting spirit. Voight takes top honours, serving up the most succulent ham. Stoltz retires wounded early on and spends most of the film below deck. The director, the Peruvian Luis Llosa, is more courageous: he faces up to the film's absurdities, and earns points for bare cheek by mounting a point-of-view shot from the anaconda's throat, looking outwards towards its next

meal. As bad movies go, *Anaconda* is quite enjoyable.

Not so *Ghosts from the Past*. The film aims for such seriousness, such nobility of purpose, as it charts the mission of a white assistant district attorney to reopen the real-life case of Medgar Evers, the Mississippi civil rights leader murdered in 1963. It aches to join *To Kill a Mockingbird* as a conscience-pricking Hollywood classic, the kind that makes white liberals feel better. But *Ghosts* cannot muster the drama, the passion, the humour or sincerity to make the grade.

What it can muster is Alec Baldwin, Hollywood hunk. Not known for playing morally radiant human beings, he is asked to make goodness shine forth from Bobby DeLaughter (pronounced Delawter), the lawyer eager to bring to justice the suspected murderer, a raging racist twice set free by juries 25 years before. Baldwin tries hard, but still looks too much the smiling rascal.

It would help if characters and situations were drawn with more than one dimension, but subtlety and shading are unknown. So is humour.

DeLaughter is aiming for sainthood, and saints don't tell jokes, least of all Myrtle Evers, the widow whose support he courts. Whoopi Goldberg sails through that role like a royal yacht, calm, dignified, and quite unreal.

Any fire the film contains is confined to Byron De La Beckwith, the Ku Klux Klan man who freely admits, outside the courtroom, that he murdered Evers. James Woods tackles this character with his usual verve and venom. Not for the first time, the devil appears to have all the best tunes, which is obviously not the impression the film's makers intended.

Kids Return is by Takeshi Kitano. So the connoisseur should expect designer violence

cheek by jowl with humour and visual poetry, on the order of *Sonatine*. But this time Kitano does not deliver. Instead, the Japanese maverick offers a quasi-realist drama about two adolescent layabouts and their drift towards boxing and crime.

Often the camera is content to sit, soaking up ritual exercises in the gym. Only occasionally does Kitano go for the lyrical or cryptic flourish, lingering over the boys' cycling, or conveying a bit of school sabotage with an elliptical cut to a fire engine. The film's sober and thoughtful style may be a result of autobiography: Kitano is partly remembering his own school days in the mid-1960s. We lose in the process some surface excitement; we gain a mature and searching film about Japanese youth, their hopes and fears.

The week is completed with *Moll Flanders*, which takes Daniel Defoe's character, although not his exact plot, and drains the life from her. Neither bawdy enough for popular tastes, nor intelligent enough for highbrows, this American film, shot in Ireland in 1995, tries hard to breathe 18th-century air. But no spirit animates the clutter of cobblestones, carriages, courtesans and thieves. As the impoverished heroine, Robin Wright is too busy, acting to appear natural, while even the usually excellent Stockard Channing makes a pig's ear of Mrs Allworthy, the madam who gives Moll a home.

MOLL FLANDERS
Damian: Rent the video of the television version instead — it's funnier, feistier, and the nudity count is higher.
Timothy: A great cast does well with an average script. Leslie: Jon Lynch gives one of the finest screen performances of the year.
Sarah: An enjoyable romp. Robin Wright really relishes the fun.

SNAP VERDICT

'Bottom end of the scale'

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

ANACONDA
Damian Samuels, 19: This forked-tongue-in-cheek adventure film makes the beast in question as scary as a draught-excluder.
Timothy Thornton, 21: Far too many clichés for it to work, even as a comedy.
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 18: Not the greatest movie in history, but I was gripped. Take your main squeeze for company — it's scary.
Sarah Crook, 18: The bottom end of the scale.

GHOSTS FROM THE PAST
Damian: Little Big Man meets *To Kill a Mockingbird* meets *Mississippi Burning* in this gripping drama.
Timothy: James Woods deserved the Oscar nomination, but Whoopi Goldberg was a little out of her depth.
Leslie: The acting was of the highest standard, but director Rob Reiner failed to bring this powerful story to life.
Sarah: Woods gives a cracking performance.

MOLL FLANDERS
Damian: Rent the video of the television version instead — it's funnier, feistier, and the nudity count is higher.
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WINNER
BEST FILM 1997

KOLYA

STARTS TOMORROW

CURZON MAYFAIR
GATE
RITZY
Barbican
RENOIR

AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS

"★★★★ LUSH AND LOVELY...
ROBIN WRIGHT IS BOTH STUNNING AND
ENCHANTING IN THIS PASSIONATE ADVENTURE"

SATELLITE NEWS NETWORK

ROBIN WRIGHT
MORGAN FREEMAN
STOCKARD CHANNING

The
remarkable story
of one woman's

MOLL FLANDERS

SPILLING FILMS PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX, TRILOGY ENTERTAINMENT GROUP
ROBIN WRIGHT MORGAN FREEMAN STOCKARD CHANNING "MOLL FLANDERS" JOHN LYNCH BRENDA FRICKER
MARK MANCINA CONSOLATA BOYLE VIL TRAVIS JAMES R. SIMONS
CAROLINE HANANIA DAVID TATTERSALL MORGAN O'SULLIVAN DANIEL DEFOE
JOHN WATSON RICHARD B. LEWIS PEN DENSHAM

STARTS TOMORROW
AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FROM FRIDAY MAY 16TH

There are all kinds of philosophers: some narrowly focused on particular aspects of philosophy, others wide-ranging in their interests; some introverted, others gregarious. Tony Kenny's interests are wide, his disposition sociable. Accordingly this, the second part of his autobiography, is accessible to a wide audience — although a reader interested in the world of ideas will enjoy it most. Even those who are not of a philosophical bent will, however, be engrossed by his insider's account of Oxford from the early 1960s to the late 1980s.

Because he came to philosophy through his training in the scholastic tradition while studying for the priesthood in the Gregorian University in Rome, Tony Kenny's thinking has never been narrowly dominated by the British analytic tradition. He is highly critical, however, of the arid and unimelancholic way in which Aristotelian and Thomistic philosophy was taught in the Gregorian, and most of the philosophers that he then absorbed, together with his un-English sense of the genius of

The Master's Last Supper at High Table

Garret Fitzgerald

A LIFE IN OXFORD
By Anthony Kenny
John Murray, £20
ISBN 0 7195 5061 0

Thomas Aquinas, came paradoxically from his theological studies at that institution.

The issues he has tackled in a lifetime of research and publication have been extensive — ranging from such topics as God's existence, faith, and free will, to specific moral issues like nuclear deterrence and the definition of murder.

He addressed the latter subject after taking Bar Examinations late in life, conscious of the danger that failure in these tests might well have provoked the headline: "Master of Balliol flunks elementary examination". Typically, he

remarks that one of the advantages of being a law student around 1980 was that in that capacity he received the circulars of the National Union of Students "and thus became privy to whatever mischief was brewing against Vice-Chancellors and Heads of Oxbridge Houses".

In 1978 he visited Czechoslovakia with his wife Nancy in support of the philosopher-dissident Professor Julius Tomin. A seminar on Aristotle in Tomin's flat was broken up by the secret police. Nancy and he, after interrogation in police headquarters — where he was berated for talking philosophy with a "group of criminals" — were taken to the border and left to find their way, carrying their baggage, across a valley to a German frontier post. These events became something of a *cause célèbre* at the time.

His reflections on the morality of nuclear deterrence led him in his



Kenny: warm-hearted

book on *The Logic of Deterrence* to the uncompromising conclusion that, whatever the merits of a nuclear deterrent that would not be used as an alternative to surrender, if someone arguing for the deterrent "says and means that 'you must go right in and use it if it ever comes to the crunch'... then I

can only tell him, quite soberly, that he is a man with murder in his heart."

Kenny recounts that on one occasion when seated next to Caspar Weinberger, then US Secretary of Defense, at an Oxford Union dinner, he apologised for having become heated on this subject, adding that "if you have the power to destroy the world, you must expect people to get excited when talking to you". "But perhaps," Weinberger replied, "I have the power to save it too." Not since the Last Supper, Tony Kenny remarks, had such a claim been made over the dinner table.

When Roy Jenkins succeeded Harold Macmillan as Chancellor of Oxford, Tony Kenny and myself were amongst his honorees. While he was an obvious choice for the Chancellor's list, I felt that my own inclusion owed something to the rejection by the Congregation of the University of an earlier

proposal to honour Margaret Thatcher. As I found when I went over the incoming Chancellor's honorees back to 1904, almost every outstanding British politician of the century was included at one time or another. But in the light of the incumbent Prime Minister's earlier rejection by the Congregation of the University, Roy Jenkins clearly could not include her name on his list — nor could he very well honour other British politicians. And that, I feel, was how I came in, as the next best thing to a British politician!

Ireland is indebted to Tony Kenny for his generous interest in the Northern Ireland problem which he has demonstrated by his involvement in the British-Irish Association and by his Vice-Chairmanship of the unofficial Kilbrandon Commission, which studied and reported on the work of the New Ireland Forum. The Commission rightly crit-

cised the biased historical section of the Forum Report — which my party and others had to concede to Fianna Fail as the price of getting Agreement on the conclusions. But Kilbrandon nevertheless concluded that while joint authority of the two Governments over Northern Ireland was impracticable, the joint authority proposal nevertheless contained ideas that were worth pursuing. As a result its publication in November 1984, when the negotiations for the Anglo-Irish agreement of the following year were moving into a difficult stage, helped to create a climate in which the problems created by Margaret Thatcher's "Out, out, out" press conference a couple of weeks after its publication, were eventually overcome.

Tony Kenny's subsequent book, *The Road to Hillsborough*, demonstrated his sustained interest in and concern for the problem of Northern Ireland.

A Life in Oxford is an attractive account of an important part of the life of an English intellectual — a man with wide interests and a warm heart.

Bearing mute witness

Michael Arditti

THE DUMB HOUSE
By John Burnside
Cape, £9.99
ISBN 0 224 04317 6

GIVEN that empathy is the essence of fiction, it comes as a shock to encounter a protagonist so detached from conventional responses that he regards other people as objects, of interest only to the extent that they relate to him. That shock is intensified when he narrates his own story with intelligence and a sensitivity to language. Such was the case with Tarquin Winot in John Burnside's *The Debt to Pleasure* and it is repeated in John Burnside's debut novel, *The Dumb House*.

The novel's unnamed narrator is obsessed with the function of language: its ability to give shape and meaning to the universe. Inspired by the Persian myth of Akbar the Great, who filled a palace (the Dumb House) with newborn children, attended only by mutes, in an attempt to find whether speech was intrinsic, he sets out to discover the secrets of language.

He regards himself as a scientist "wholly dedicated to the experiment", but, from his first encounter with a strangely docile woman whom he violates and her silent son whom he assaults, it is clear that his objectivity is compromised. He compares himself to da Vinci or Vesalius, but, when he subjects his own twins to deprivation and violence, he steps closer to the Dr Knox who employed Burke and Hare.

Burnside makes no attempt to explain his protagonist's psychopathy, although it is undoubtedly connected with his dead mother, for whom he has a Norman Bates-like obsession. She encouraged his morbid tendencies by showing him the corpses of animals and his inhuman detachment by telling him the story of the Dumb House. Her abiding presence and the rituals he performs at her death recall Ian McEwan.

This is a demanding novel, as single-minded in its prose as in its narrator's purpose. From the first paragraph, it is evident that words are to be Burnside's theme as much as his medium. He skillfully exposes the limitations of language while asserting the power of fiction to reveal what lies behind speech.



Who's a cheeky monkey?

Alain de Botton vocalises his praise of a novelist who satirises the human race with chimpanzees

In his excellent second novel, *Will Self* asks us to imagine what the world would be like if evolution had taken a different route. Instead of humans ruling the most, what if chimpanzees were in charge? What if they were the ones to have evolved complex societies, built cities, developed cars and fancy restaurants? Moreover, what if they had wiped out most humans, and considered them with a mixture of pity and condescension, keeping a few of them for their entertainment in decrepit conditions in London Zoo?

The novel opens in contemporary London. Our hero is a young man called Simon Dykes, a successful artist who has made his name painting semi-abstract representations of disaster scenes (he is famed

for his canvas of the King's Cross fire, and who leads a riotous life, taking copious quantities of drugs and alcohol. After a particularly heavy night at Soho's Seelink Club (a wink at the Groucho), Simon wakes up in bed with more than just a hang-over. Something isn't right, for his girlfriend Sarah has grown rather hirsute overnight. She is also letting out a few grunts. In fact, as Simon realises to his horror, she has become a chimpanzee.

Not that Sarah thinks anything of this. Everyone is a chimpanzee, she tells him: when Simon looks outside, the streets are filled with chimps

going about their business. They're swinging from trees, copulating in parks and inspecting each other's rears in the street. When Simon says it's all crazy, he is quickly declared insane, and a medical team carry him off to Charing Cross Hospital where he is kept in a secure room. There he is put into the care of an affable chimp psychiatrist called

Zach Busner, who teaches him to come to terms with his own chimpanzee. Simon gradually accepts that he isn't human, that this is merely a delusion caused by damage to brain tissue, and that the chimp way of life is the best there is.

It is to Self's credit that this satire should end up as more than an intellectual conceit. The book's charm lies in part in the obvious delight Self takes in reinventing our world along chimp lines. First there is chimp vocabulary: the apes speak of someone having chimpanzee (humanity), when they lose their temper, they go humanshit (apeshit),

while on chimp television, Anton Moshchup and Lloyd Grosschup host a popular cookery programme. Sex never lasts more than a few minutes, incest is the greatest treat for the kids, and being allowed to sniff someone's anus is a privilege. In Regent's Park we see Sloane chimp mothers "vocalise to one another with the extended grunts of their class" while a slap-up breakfast consists of a bowl of well-chewed sloe berries.

Of course, as in the best satires, this journey through the alien world of chimps is at heart a deeply serious (and even moving) call for us to reconsider the shortcomings of the human world. Self's achievement is to show us how we might all benefit from getting in touch with the chimp inside us.

Caught fast in the net

Sadie Plant

HARD, SOFT AND WET
The Digital Generation Comes of Age
By Melanie McGrath
HarperCollins, £16.99
ISBN 0 00 255586 7

THE engaging record of Melanie McGrath's explorations of digital culture, *Hard, Soft and Wet*, is at once a romance, a cultural commentary, and a piece of travel writing which adds the virtual world to its itinerary as though it were a new place on the map. Spanning several countries and detailing relationships with a wealth of characters — including Nancy, Nancy's friend Clare, Daniel the DJ, not to mention the two Macs (one a computer, the other a young man) — this is also a personal account of intense friendships and emotions. McGrath writes with an intimacy which might well feel gratuitous if it weren't for the perverse extent to which the Net itself seems to demand such confidential tones. E-mail and on-line conversation can be far more intimate than face-to-face exchanges between best friends. E-mail is described as "an imperfect form of telepathy".



Embracing virtuality

This is a story in which everything grows up, old, or at least used to the digital world. What begins as an alien culture, young and seductive, becomes familiar, routine, and far more diverse by the end of the book. First waves of enthusiasm give way to the reflective waters in which this book so elegantly swims.

As the Net and computers come of age, McGrath sees herself growing up as well. It is a compelling parallel, and McGrath is perfectly poised to record the unique qualities of this slice of history. But there are times when it also runs the risk of reducing a decade of technological and cultural change to a tale of personal growth and development.

When she draws her conclusions in Singapore, McGrath discovers that what appeared to be her quest for the future was more of a search for eternal youth, an attempt to keep the realities of adult life at bay. All of which is immensely plausible, but far less engaging than the astute portrayals of people, conversations, and encounters which give this book its edge.

Sadie Plant's *Zeros and Ones: Unraveling the Culture of the Future* will be published in August by Fourth Estate.

Despite the ravages of war Vietnam can be lovable, says Jonathan Mirsky

Of Mae and Ho

As in everything Gavin Young has written — when he was a star at *The Observer* in its great days and in wonderful books like *Slow Boats to China* and *In Search of Conrad* — *A Wavering Grace* brings the atmosphere of Vietnam so near that you can almost taste and smell it. As usual, too, this memoir of a Vietnamese family Mr Young loved over many years and of the country he has the courage to call "lovable" contains many good little stories and in this case one unbeatable one.

In 1965 Mr Young, who had reported the war in Vietnam for three years, interrupted an interview in New York with Mae West, then in her seventies, to rush back to Vietnam to cover the battle for Hue, the imperial Vietnamese capital. Shaken by the destruction of the city, he returned to New York and Mae West. Hearing he'd just been in "Vietnam", she said: "I used to know someone very very important there... His name was — uh — let's see — Ho... Ho... Ho something."

Mr Young was staggered but Ms West told him: "You'd better believe it... I never lie." During the Twenties, she went on, she was starring in her

A WAVERING GRACE
A Vietnamese Family in War and Peace
By Gavin Young
Viking, £17.99
ISBN 0 670 86400 0

own London show. Sex, and staying at the Carlton. Now it is known that Ho Chi Minh was working as a scullion in that hotel and at that time (not under the name Ho, but never mind). "There was this waiter, cook. I don't know what he was. I know he had the slinkiest eyes, though. We met in the corridor. We — well... She left things there. Her voice trailed off in a husky sigh..."

During his almost 30 years in and out of Vietnam Mr Young became a virtual member of a family dominated by the cultivated, brave, and nearly indestructible Mme Ngo Thi Bong, whose husband died fighting the French; one of her boys died fighting the Communists and she went to "comb a remote battlefield for chunks of her son to scoop into a plastic bag and carry home." Mme Bong and Mr Young (who helped some of the family to escape to the

United States) watched Vietnam, "like a rare and beautiful butterfly", crushed between the two sides. But Mr Young observed that: "The boisterous American presence hid Vietnam like a crude curtain. The true Vietnam slid by unnoticed if one was not careful; but the movement and colour of this gorgeous country remained." He contemplates ending his days in a delta village "where the rice fields stretch away... like a shining emerald counterpane", among "these loving, adorable people... my favourites in the world."

This is the sentimental Mr Young — and why not? There is also Mr Young, the war reporter, holding a dying Vietnamese soldier in his arms whose chest has been torn open by a shell fragment. Mr Young presses his own hand "to the warm liquid mass where his stomach had been." The boy says "hurt me," and soon dies. "I remember feeling this was the end of everything. There was nothing else to do... one might as well stay here for ever."

He got up instead and eventually gave us this delicate, terrible, and enchanting book.



Portrait at the Perfume Pagoda: from Mitch Epstein's *Vietnam: A Book of Changes* (W. W. Norton, £25)

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Far from the finish line

John Maddox
wonders whether
scientific ends might
not be simply
new beginnings

John Horgan is an intelligent and reflective writer for *Scientific American*; his book is intelligent but perverse. The title, *The End of Science*, is the message. The method appears to have been to interview people, not always scientists, who are uncertain where science will go from here, weaving their opinions into an argument. Implicitly, Horgan supposes a future free from big surprises, but the supposition is not exclusively implicit: writing of the problem of telling how life began on the surface of the Earth, he says that if living things were discovered on other planets, "we would have to think again". It will be interesting to see how long, delayed the rethink will be.

I must declare an interest. I have spent a long time — my publishers would say too long a time — writing a book called *What Remains to be Discovered*. The starting-point, the state of science now, is much the same, but the conclusions are quite the opposite. I conclude (and do believe) that, far from being near its end, science is only just beginning. How is it that two people can reach such different conclusions from essentially the same material?

Each of us notes, for example, that the decade at the end of the 19th century was a

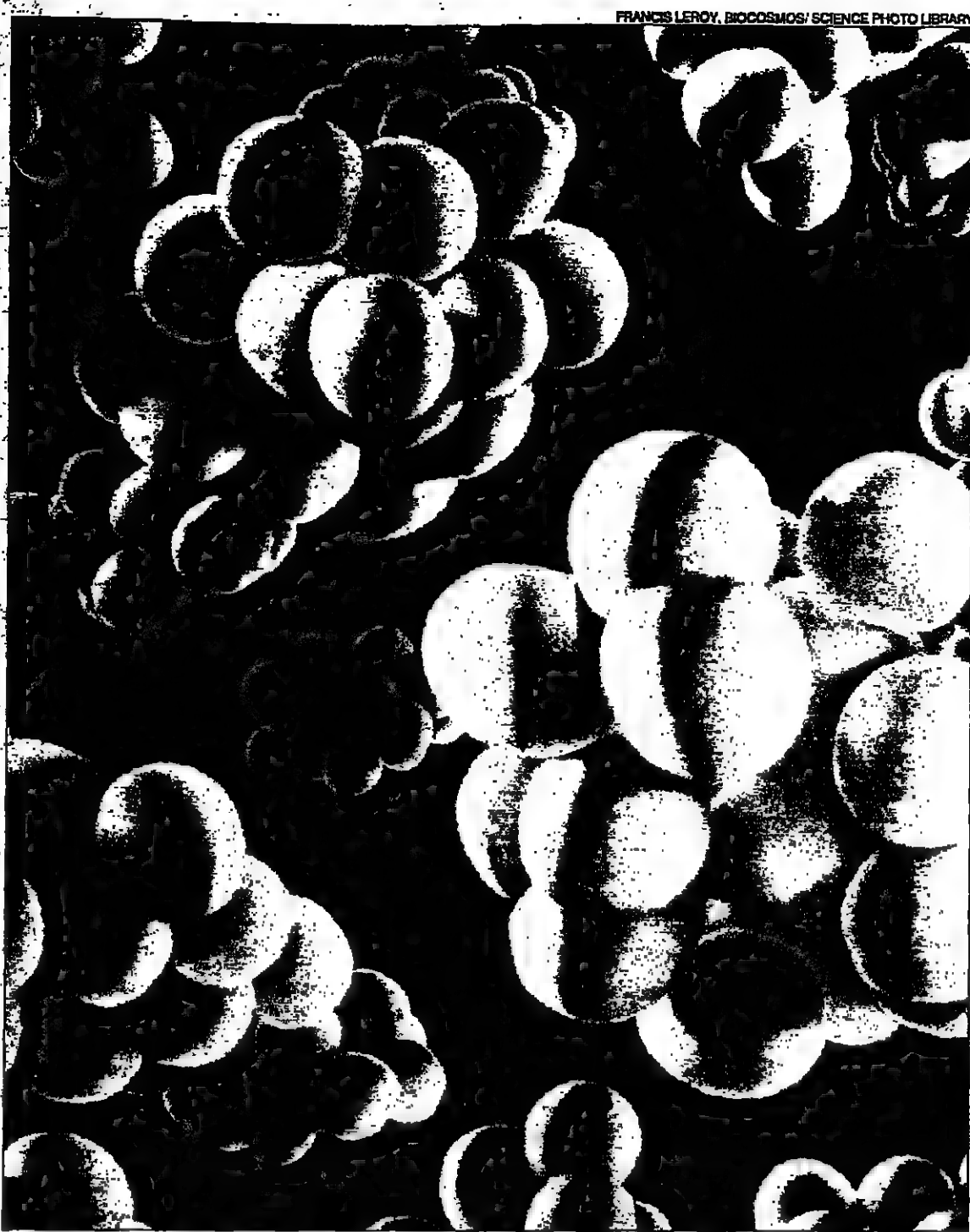
THE END OF SCIENCE

By John Horgan
Little, Brown, £18.99
ISBN 0 316 0452 2

previous occasion when the practitioners of science believed that everything worth doing had been done. There were a few unexplained phenomena — X-rays (discovered in 1895), radioactivity (the following year) and the electron (in 1897) — but nobody seriously believed that any one of these contradictions could undermine the great enterprise of mechanics founded by Newton more than two centuries earlier. Yet by 1925 it was all gone, buried beneath Einstein's two theories of relativity and the communal development of quantum mechanics, which is the most penetrating (and successful) theory of how matter moves yet devised.

Horgan's failure, in my opinion, is that he hardly lifts a finger to catalogue the contradictions or lacunae now apparent in science's scheme of things. The dark spots may, at present, be clouds on the horizon of contentment, too bigger than a man's hand, but who can tell that none of them will prove subversive? One, for example, is that it has not yet proved possible to devise a quantum theory of gravity. That is important because you cannot otherwise claim to understand the earliest phases of the "Big Bang" from which our Universe is supposed to have sprung (but there are other contradictions as well).

Horgan relates that he had the good luck to attend (as a reporter) a meeting in Sweden at which some of those involved with quantum gravity (Stephen Hawking included) talked about solutions to their conundrum. Horgan formed the impression that what they were saying was "preposterous" and claims that an anonymous "attender" agreed with him. Plainly he mistook informed speculation for pronouncements of the truth. Whether there is such a thing as final truth is, of course, an open question.



Small discoveries may lead to larger revelations: electron micrograph image of the staphylococcus bacteria

That, I believe, is the essential difference between us. Horgan shares the view that there are such things as the "laws of physics" (or of chemistry, or biology) that, when discovered in their authentic form, will turn the rest of the field concerned into stamp-collecting. My own opinion, sustained by the history of the fields of which Horgan writes and others, is that progress most often consists of asking familiar questions in more penetrating ways. Aristotle, after all, asked some of the questions that later occupied Newton, but only Newton asked them perceptively — and he was then to be superseded by Einstein.

Even in booming molecular biology, the same process is at work. Take the regulation of the activity of genes. For 30 years, this has been one of the central problems. The mechanism was first revealed (as a neat molecular switch) in bacteria, and then found not to apply in other organisms. These people began identifying small patches of DNA near the genes in higher organisms that seemed to be involved in their regulation. At the outset, each new element was hailed as the vital one; now, when a typical gene may have half a dozen controlling elements, people seem willing to accept that there may be even more of them. That, of course, does not

mean that the hunt for gene regulators is lapsing into chaos, but merely that the mechanism is one that is subtle and probably flexible. Nobody fears that there will be no answer.

Simpler questions about genes raise more intriguing problems. Why, for example, are the genes in higher organisms arranged along the length of a finite stretch of DNA, but those of bacteria arranged on a circular chromosome? And why do people have 46 linear chromosomes while all the great apes have 48? None of this is pointless inquiry, nor is it "ironic science" — Horgan's name for untestable and fanciful theories.

There are many detailed issues to dispute in Horgan's book, but there is one sense in which it is "preposterous" (to use his word). Quantum gravity is a central unsolved problem. So is the understanding of the origin of life. Then there is the business of the evolution of human beings in the past 4.5 million years, from which we shall learn our cultural history. It will be time to write about *The End of Science* when all these questions have been answered — except that science will by then have taken up other goals.

Sir John Maddox, Editor Emeritus of *Nature*, is the author of *What Remains to be Discovered*, to be published by Macmillan early next year.

Elizabeth Buchan on a novel of Parisian secrets

Young life that is altered by beauty

THE WAY I FOUND HER

By Rose Tremain
Sinclair-Stevenson, £15.00
ISBN 1 8519 400 4

At open the best writers and the red blood of the rebel and the risk-taker spurts to the surface. The rebel takes no advice and writes what he wishes, not what is expected. The risk-taker provokes the border between disaster and the necessity of recreating and reinventing each new book's imaginative landscape. Rose Tremain is superb at both.

She is also courageous. In choosing the narrator and the subject matter of *The Way I Found Her*, she took a gamble on her powers of persuasion. A 13-year-old falling in love with his mother's employer during the course of a summer spent in Paris is a situation threaded through with the difficulty of eliciting our sympathy and empathy, not least over the troubling question of sex. She solves it in part by making him clever, precocious and, in the touching, boiled-down verdict lifted from his school report, "a person of resolution".

Lewis's mother, Alice, is a translator. Summoned from Devon to a smart Parisian apartment by the best-selling author of medieval romances, Valentina Cavrilovich, Alice's job is to push the publication schedule ahead. Lewis has come with her to learn French. Her husband, Hugh, uneasy over the state of the marriage, remains in Devon to build a hut in the garden which he imagines will please his wife. From time to time, reports of its progress filter through to Lewis, but they are dim dispatches. For, in Paris, Lewis exists in a condition of intoxicated discovery. He reads Alain-Fournier's *Le Grand Meaulnes* and, later,

had died mysteriously, noises from the attic room next to Lewis's.

"It is too soon for you to learn everything," Valentina's mother warns Lewis, but is powerless to prevent his encounter with a trinity of violence, sex and death. Lewis has his own views. "Beauty," he states at the start of the story, "causes alteration ... Alteration may frequently result in some accident or other." Since he meets both beauty and knowledge in a terrible manner, the experience proves to be irredeemable.

This is a novel whose craft is, quite simply, magnificent. Its structures are forged in steel and yet they are built with the lightest of touches. The text is rich in allusion, irony and shimmering resonance. Images of flying, falling and of the bridge crowd Lewis's altered perception as he moves from one state to another. "Mum" turns into a stranger called Alice, the transition between sexual fantasy and the experience is made. His teenage appetite is transmuted into a stronger hunger and, thus, Lewis walks the roofs knowing that roofs are dangerous.

Lewis is not in the mould of the majority of adolescents. Either the reader decides to accept him, or abandon reading. Like the author, he or she must take a risk but will be repaid. *The Way I Found Her* is magical invention of page-turning suspense, of sadness, grief and passion, whose sure and delicate exposure of a sensibility flowering one hot Parisian summer teaches us the price of experience. Do not miss it.



Tremain: magical prose

Spirit of Ariel and Caliban

Robert Nye

AUDEN'S PROSE
Volume 1: 1926-38
Edited by Edward Mendelson
Faber, £40
ISBN 0 571 17899 5

Ariel's voice is heard in such pieces as *Writing*, a contribution to a book for children: "People write in order to be read. They would like to be read by everybody, and for ever," and "Rhythm is what is expected by one word or another". There is an admirable directness and lack of pretension about such remarks. Caliban sounds in some of the criticism written for T. S. Eliot's magazine *The*

Criterion, where Auden's usual fluency seems throttled by his desire to impress his editor.

On individual writers, Auden is always memorable, especially in the bits of letters quoted in the notes. Dylan Thomas is "exciting up to a point, but I wish I didn't feel the excitement was simply the exhilaration of being very tight". James Reeves is "like Graves but genuine not bogus Graves". As for Spender: "I find the spectacle of Stephen trying to be heterosexual acutely embarrassing."

Auden left instructions to his friends to burn all his letters, but on this evidence a volume of his correspondence must not be long delayed. It is notable that from about 1932 Auden gives as much weight

to religious solutions as to political ones.

What is believed in seems at first less important to the writer than the fact of faith. Communism or Catholicism — he implies that either might do. Isolation is the disease and love the remedy. Gradually a shift comes, with an emphasis on communion, the love-fest, the idea that the early Christians "found real salvation from the lust for self-salvation" in a vision of agape. The progress the prose records is a pilgrim's progress.

And yet, what an artful pilgrim! Behind that face like a wedding cake left out in the rain there was always a mind like a can of queer worms. That line about love got rejected because it was not true enough, the final Auden insisting with perfect orthodoxy that we must love one another and die. The church lost a good bishop when Auden made up his mind to become a poet (at half-past three one afternoon in March, 1923 — see page 332).

What came After Ovid

Michael Hofmann

TALES FROM OVID
By Ted Hughes
Faber, £14.99
ISBN 0 571 1759 X

logical, the erotic and the catastrophic. The metamorphoses have metamorphosed: either in the form of contributory tales within tales, or lesser stories backed up in a sort of dead arm, or just the little almost subliminal swirls of embellishment, often of a watery

character. Newly arrived in the Underworld, Narcissus heads straight for the River Styx to get another look at himself, a pack of hunting dogs "bowed over the landscape". Pygmalion's "brain swam" as he contemplates the naked form of Galatea.

HUGHES'S language is dynamic and forceful, but also quick on its feet. Without being self-advertisingly modern (like Lowell's *Imitations* or Christopher Logue's versions from Homer), he makes a series of well-judged borrowings from the worlds of technology, psychology and — very effectively — comic books: a god may "materialise", poison is "activated" by heat, Juno rises from her throne

"Like a puff of smoke from a volcano".

His chosen medium for Ovid's hexameters is free verse. T. S. Eliot once said that no verse is free for the man wanting to do a good job, but up until now I had never felt the truth of that: there was always something large or corrupt or inadequate about the idea. Hughes's free verse is a thing of utter wonder: the play of letters and syllables — I think he works more by sound than by rhythm — is exquisitely controlled and thrilling to follow. The meaningless luxury poured on Terentius, whose mind is on incest: "The sun went down. A royal banquet glittered and steamed." The guests, replete, slept."

MIDAS'S ass's ears wrapped "in a turban superb! As compensation could be." How the word "alive" is synthesized in another line about Pygmalion's Galatea: "Life-size, ivory, as if alive." Her perfect figure lay in his studio.

In the verse, you hear millennial echoes, ghosts of the alliterative half-line of Anglo-Saxon ("His arms are lean legs.") of Renaissance fluency ("As among vipers the elegance/Of a viper, or a swan's grace among swans.") of modern mixed diction ("Pan is the real thing — the true voice/Of the subterranean") of universal and unclassifiable lyric beauty: "Her running redoubled her beauty." The ribbon-ties at her ankles/ Were the wing-tips of swallows. The ribbon-ties at her knees/ Were the wing-tips of swallows.

Tales from Ovid is the best thing Hughes has done, the most musical English verse since Bunting, the greatest poem of Classical inspiration probably since the *Cantos*. It will live as one of the great works of our century.

Valiant Paladin of two world wars

Alistair Horne

UNDER TWO FLAGS
The Life of Major General Sir Edward Spears
By Max Egremont
Weidenfeld & Nicholson, £25
ISBN 0 297 8130 1

In August 1914, the British and French armies were reeling back in disarray before the Kaiser's onslaught. Few knew precisely what was happening or even where the respective armies were. One who did was a 28-year-old Lieutenant, temporary Captain of the cavalry, Edward Louis Spears, who was attached to General Lanrezac because of his fluency in French.

Spears's contribution in these darkest days of the First World War was reckoned then to have been "the most extraordinary week's work that any British subaltern has ever done", in the words of the author of this admirable biography, Max Egremont, he had simply "saved the British Expeditionary Force."

Wounded four times in the course of his 1914-1918 liaison services, he was rated by Winston Churchill as "indeed a Paladin, worthy to rank with the truest legends of the great days of romance."

In the late Twenties, picked up by his champion to become a right-wing Tory MP, Spears published his own account of the war, entitled *Liaison* 1914. A work responding to French distortions of Britain's role, and therefore one with its own prejudicial bias, it nevertheless remains one of the great



Cause of indigestion? De Gaulle lunches with Spears in 1944, after the flight from Bordeaux

classics of war literature. In the debacle of 1940, Spears was called back to perform a similar function with the French, and here began a stormy — and eventually disastrous — relationship with de Gaulle. They were two men of brilliance, with vast egos and enormous chips on their shoulders. In his later years, Spears liked to relate how he had literally yanked the future leader of France aboard the last plane leaving Bordeaux; this version of the

tale was hotly disputed by de Gaulle's entourage, and it is diplomatically skirted by Max Egremont.

Spears ended his military career heading the British mission to the French Levant, where he set himself up as a kind of latter-day Lawrence, espousing the cause of Arab liberation and gaining the lasting hatred of de Gaulle and the French.

Retired from the Army, and out of politics after a sad final split with Churchill, Spears

went into business where he set himself up, Rhodes-like, at the head of Ashanti Goldfields — finally to be ousted by an even larger ego: Tiny Rowlands.

As a young author, I recall Spears in old age — gratefully — as immensely generous both of his time and hospitality. He provided invaluable material on France for three books, not only on the two world wars but also on the 1870 Siege of Paris, where his French Rafinesque family

were key eye-witnesses. But he was a damaged personality, one that was plagued by self-doubt (not least by an obsession about his supposed Jewish background) and suspicion.

His bi-nationalism left him always the outsider, open to mistrust on both sides of the *manche*. (Typical of how the British cavalry of pre-1914 saw him was the reproach at his keeping a Gallic handkerchief up his sleeve: "no gentleman ever has anything up his sleeve." He often did.) In the Commons he was dubbed, not altogether affectionately, the "Member for Paris".

As well as writing an important slice of contemporary history, Max Egremont provides an excellent psychological study of this highly complex operator: his description of Spears' *menage d'arts*, his elopement and then extraordinary unkindness to his brilliant (and physically courageous) American novelist wife, Mary Borden, shows him as the good fiction writer that he also is. I have long hoped that he might now turn his abundant talent to another of history's outstanding minor figures, this time in the context of Second World War liaison, Sir John Wheeler Bennett — almost as interesting as Louis Spears, but a much nicer man.

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BRITISH RED CROSS

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In the charity's fundraising week, Ros Drinkwater looks at how its role and profile is changing to meet the modern demands of Britain

In war and in peace, the group that brings comfort

On a 1991 visit to refugees in Croatia, Michael Whitlam, the then newly appointed Director-General of the British Red Cross, found himself under fire. Stuck in a bunker under mortar bombardment, his response was characteristic. Noting the hour, he decided to capitalise on the PR potential and using the wind-up field telephone, gave Radio 4's *Today* programme an impromptu live interview.

The origins of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement dates back to the battle of Solferino in 1859, when the horror of war so shocked Swiss businessman Jean Henri Dunant he determined to found a volunteer organisation based on his belief in humanitarianism, neutrality and impartiality. Today, with affiliates in 171 countries, both the name and symbol call up an image of

dedicated volunteers in life-threatening conditions in international war zones.

The British Red Cross, with an annual income of more than £90 million, ranks sixth in financial terms, but with a presence in 46 countries, supplies the largest number of staff to the international movement. About 90,000 volunteers, plus 2,700 paid staff, care for people in crisis at home and abroad.

Each of the 86 UK branches has an agreed role within the statutory services' major incident plan, and deploy volunteers to provide pre-planned services such as transporting people away from a scene, as demonstrated at bomb threats at Aintree, and giving first aid and emotional support.

But despite more than a century of magnificent work, a 1991 market research study described the Red Cross as the "best known, least understood" humanitarian organisation.

ation, its public image that of a worthy, but old-fashioned movement, solid, but hardly exciting. Mr Whitlam was charged with the task of streamlining the organisation and of refocusing its role as an emergency service equipped to deal with the rapidly changing environment.

He says: "Worldwide, the Red Cross is highly respected, the emblem is still the protective emblem, more recognisable even than Coca-Cola or McDonald's, but it is vital to be relevant to what is happening now. Wars are happening differently. There are fewer wars between countries, more breakdowns within countries. So although a country may have signed the Geneva Convention, the different factions within the country don't know what you're talking about when you point out that killing women and children is against the Convention." Work in the UK accounts for

more than 50 per cent of the budget. Under Mr Whitlam, there has been a shift from offering a vast range of services, to a concentration on core services targeting the most vulnerable communities.

"It's not enough for someone to simply want to be a volunteer," Mr Whitlam says. "He or she has to be prepared to train, and train hard, to deliver the highest quality service."

"While we must be prepared for any emergency, we can't have people sitting around doing nothing. The worldwide movement has taken the strategic decision to work with the most vulnerable, both at home and overseas. Here in the UK we've identified five core services: Medical Loan, Transport and Escort, First Aid Duties, Health and Social Care, and Message and Tracing Services, that will ensure that when we're called upon to respond to a major event, we'll have the skills to deliver."



Essential service: volunteers in a specially equipped caravan offer food, clothing and practical advice after a fire

Staying cool under fire

TO THE public, the Red Cross's most prominent role is in administering first aid. At a recent Tina Turner concert, for example, 135 first-aiders, who were on site from dawn until the small hours, treated 1,000 people for complaints ranging from heat exhaustion and sprained ankles to problem pregnancies.

But first aid is merely a part of the Red Cross's work. Volunteers from the organisation play a crucial role in every national emergency, be it natural disasters or the evacuation of populations in the face of terrorist threat. Martin Annis is the assistant emergency planning officer with special responsibility for Fire Victim Support, the Red Cross's newest emergency service.

"Though the Fire Service has a statutory responsibility to rescue people and put out fires, it is not within its brief to meet the needs of the victims," he says. "As with all major incidents, there is a lot of activity that seems to fall between everyone's area of responsibility."

"Previously much cherished systems of support do not exist as strongly as they did. Families are scattered and local communities are not always as supportive as they'd like to be, so people may be left very much to their own devices, not knowing where to turn for help."

The idea of Fire Victim Support was developed in America. Launched in Berkshire in 1993, it now operates in 11 English counties and there are plans to extend it to the rest of Britain by the end of the century.

"When the Fire Service arrives at a fire, firefighters decide what resources are needed," Mr Annis says. "In the case of distressed victims with no one to turn to, they may call out Red Cross volunteers who arrive in a specially adapted motor caravan equipped with clothing, mobile telephone, kitchen and shower, everything necessary to provide practical and emotional support in those all-important first few hours."

"Their job is to move the

victims from the scene of the fire and provide support in a fairly private environment where the victims' needs can be met."

Volunteers undergo 60 hours of training and are selected on the basis of both their emotional and physical strength. In Mr Annis's view, the job calls for an extraordinary degree of dedication. "Most volunteers have ordinary day jobs — how many people would be prepared to spend all night helping fire victims and then go straight on to work in the morning?" he says.

"As the service is designed to complement existing statutory services, volunteers must also have a life that allows them to be on call from 6pm to 6am, at weekends and on bank holidays."

"Nor is it restricted to fires. At the recent Aintree bomb threat, first-aiders found themselves cut off from their vehicles, so two Fire Victim Support vans helped with the evacuation of 60,000 racegoers."

A measure of Fire Victim Support's success is the attitude of Fire Services. "Initially, and quite understandably,

they were not quite sure what to make of it," Mr Annis says. "But in four years we've reached the point when we find them actually pressurising Red Cross branches saying, 'Why haven't we got it here? What fire officers have said for years is that they dread the moment when their job is done and they have to leave distressed victims.'"

"Apart from providing comfort, volunteers advise on how to go about an insurance claim; should the house be boarded up; can precious possessions be salvaged? Even pets are looked after."

Princess wages war on mines

When Diana, Princess of Wales, provoked controversy during her visit to Angola in January, the Red Cross was not displeased. *Peter Blair writes.*

Its international campaign for the banning of anti-personnel mines was already moving into higher gear. The Princess's public support for a ban helped to raise the profile, worldwide, of an issue that has led to misery for millions. It is not the only international campaign pushed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and supported by the British Red Cross. The use of children in war is another, as is the deliberate targeting of water-supply systems and the use of blinding weapons.

Long after conflicts cease,

Royal support raises concern over civilians hurt by leftover weapons

men, women and children are dying or being maimed by these indiscriminate explosive devices. Egypt has the most active mines — about 20 to 30 million left over from the Second World War.

For the Red Cross, the problem is massive, and growing. About 25 per cent of all its surgical work throughout the world is related to landmines.

Seventy one countries harbour active landmines. Civilian refugees tend to be most affected. There are an estimated nine million mines in the former Yugoslavia.

At its hospital in Quetta, Pakistan, the ICRC reports

that 23.2 per cent of mine victims, mainly from Afghanistan, are children. Yet perhaps 85 per cent of child victims do not appear in the statistics. They die before they reach hospital.

Britain is among 155 countries supporting a call to outlaw these weapons. Western states have proposed that the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva should negotiate a phased ban, starting with exports.

In December, more than 50 governments will meet in Ottawa, aiming to sign a treaty banning anti-personnel mines.



Diana, Princess of Wales, at a minefield in Angola

Geoffrey Dennis, international director of the British Red Cross, says: "Gradually, if you can raise the issue, get large countries to act, then you will begin to solve the problem. But it will take years."

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A helping hand for the vulnerable

Volunteers provide vital services that rarely make the headlines

THE British Red Cross has a primary role to be ready for any national emergency, be it armed conflict or natural disaster. Less well-known are the services providing short-term crisis care in ordinary communities, in particular those deemed to be specially vulnerable: inner-city and rundown areas; and isolated rural communities.

Every year, thousands of individuals in crisis benefit from services delivered by 90,000 trained volunteers in 85 branches in the UK.

The Transport and Escort Service meets the needs of those who cannot get out and about easily, or have difficulty using ordinary transport. Those with impaired mobility are collected from their homes by a volunteer. In the case of a long journey, a network system means the client can be put on a train by one branch, and met by another at the end of the journey.

Home From Hospital helps people to settle back into their own homes after hospital treatment. A volunteer is assigned to prepare the client's home, help with bathing, shopping and meals, provide companionship and generally encourage confidence.

The Domiciliary Respite Care Service is designed to allow carers to take a short break from their responsibilities when they themselves fall ill, or simply need to recharge their batteries, while the Emergency Domiciliary Personal Care Service enables people to stay in their homes when the usual sources of support are unavailable.

The Therapeutic Beauty

Care Service is unique. With emphasis on therapy rather than beauty, treatment can play a large part in aiding a patient's recuperation after an illness by helping their sense of well-being. Four thousand trained volunteers offer a range of services, from cosmetic camouflage to help those suffering from disfigurement, and beauty techniques for the blind, to relaxing massage.

In the case of someone who has recently been bereaved or divorced, a doctor may prescribe a course of treatment as an alternative to drugs.

For those of limited means, the supply of specialist equip-



Home help: the organisation offers support in a crisis

ment can be vital. Medical Loan has depots around the UK providing wheelchairs, bath seats, commodes, frames and walking sticks. Last December, John arrived at one such depot with a request. His wife Janet was terminally ill with ovarian cancer, the hospital had supplied a child's wheelchair that was totally unsuitable, could they help?

The volunteer told him the last one had gone out. Three days before Christmas, a wheelchair was returned ear-

ly. Remembering John, the volunteer wheeled the chair round to his house. The delight on his face and that of his wife and children is something she will never forget.

On January 3, the chair was returned. Janet had died, aged 26. A message attached said: "Thank you for making our Christmas so happy. For the first time in six months we were able to go out as a family."

ROS DRINKWATER

A multimillion campaign where every penny counts

Supporters come in all sizes, writes Michael Prest

If you see a dapper figure rattling a collecting tin outside Knightsbridge Tube station in London, this week it may well be John Gray. As director of public affairs for the Red Cross, Mr Gray is in charge of the charity's fundraising and will be joining an army of 100,000 volunteers who hope to raise £2.5 million during the week.

Using the money efficiently is just as important as raising it. The Red Cross is in the throes of a massive reorganisation which Michael Whitlam, the Director General, believes

will streamline its structure, bring it closer to supporters and enable it better to justify the claim to be the world's leading emergency service.

The change, which will convert 53 separate charities into one, is due for completion by the end of next year, with Mr Whitlam empowered to manage the whole organisation.

Making the change has not been easy. Agreement was needed from the branches, the Charity Commissioners, the Privy Council (because the Red Cross is a royal charter body), and the International

Red Cross in Geneva. Despite natural trepidation among the charity's 2,700 staff, few redundancies are expected.

The reorganisation will cost £6 million and Mr Whitlam is confident it will more than pay for itself by the millennium.

With luck, income could nudge £100 million this year. Fundraising and donations contribute about a fifth of the total. Services, such as First Aid at Work, pull in about the same proportion, as do grants and fees. The other two big areas of income are legacies and the 360 Red Cross shops.

Mr Gray has established a network of corporate sponsors, who provide expertise, materials and contacts, as well as cash. There are eight of them — the aim is to have 12 — each providing at least £50,000 a year for three years. The companies include household names such as the supermarket chain Sainsbury's, British Airways and Commercial Union.

The chairman of the corporate sponsors' group is Sir David Barnes, chief executive of Zeneca, the pharmaceuticals company spun off from ICI. Sir David says his company felt it had a responsibility to contribute to the community in other than directly commercial ways. The Red Cross fitted the bill because it was a well-established, non-political charity with a strong international and national presence.

The Red Cross is developing strategies for global fundraising activities and is the



Whitlam: streamlining

first charity to try to earn income from Interlotto, a lottery on the Internet run from Liechtenstein.

Another idea is HelpAd, under which a company with space on its packaging lets a company with a complementary product advertise in that space, with the profits going to the Red Cross. Thus, Anchor Butter advertises on Hovis wrappers, for example. The Red Cross has signed up 70 companies in Britain and expects to earn £1 million from HelpAd this year. Now it wants to extend the idea to other countries.

All of this depends on healthy national and local roots. During its 125th year, the Red Cross set up the 125 Society, a collection of the well-connected, chaired by Angela Rippon, the broadcaster. Each member contributes at least £1,000 a year to the cause and is expected to introduce others. But there is no substitute for the goodwill earned from the 1,200 gardens that will open in aid of the Red Cross in Britain this summer, or the innumerable fairs and jumble sales up and down the land. In the increasingly high-powered world of fundraising, there remains a valued place for the volunteer tin-rattler.

Pat Blair on the international role that cost nine delegates their lives last year

Danger on the front line

It was impossible to cope with firing intravenous drips to hundreds of the hospital's 2,000 patients. A dedicated team was required for a job that takes many medical students months to master.

Help was sought from among the refugees. Next day, two sisters volunteered for training. There was a drawback — the girls were aged only 12 and 13.

But that is how two children fleeing Cambodia's killing fields came to be going from bed to bed, inserting drips into adults and babies alike with a speed and expertise that amazed the British Red Cross doctor.

It was, says Dr Frank Ryding, an example of never underestimating local facilities, or the people. Refugees are not all peasants: many are professionally qualified. Dr Ryding says: "The people who ran away from the Khmer Rouge did so because they were highly educated."

Dr Ryding, 48, an anaes-



Aid in action: supplies being distributed in Armenia in 1995

thetist who has done 13 missions in 17 years — the war zones of Afghanistan, Thailand and Chechnya among them — has been astonished by the refugees with whom he has worked.

But there is also danger and depression. He has seen the surgeon operating beside him

shot dead. In Berbera, northern Somalia, rebels shot half of his patients because they were from other tribes.

Geoffrey Dennis, international director of the British Red Cross, believes the dangers for its overseas "delegates" have grown. Last year, nine delegates died on active

duty, six of them in Chechnya in December. Now, one person in each delegation is appointed solely to review security and be the one to blow the whistle to get out.

It is not only in conflicts and relief work that the British Red Cross international division is active, working through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the federation of national Red Cross or Red Crescent societies in 171 countries.

It currently has 74 British delegates in 32 countries and spends £30-£35 million a year on activities that include coordinating with other relief agencies, teaching soldiers and civilians the humanitarian rules of conflict, helping communities to return to normal, for example by restoring water-supply systems, and checking whether prisoners are detained under humane conditions.

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Set a date and save a fortune

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE TRAVEL trade's gamble of putting millions of summer holidays for next year on sale before this season has begun has met with mixed success — and caused confusion among potential holidaymakers.

Most of the leading tour operators brought their 1998 brochures out at least six weeks earlier than normal in the hope that the post-election euphoria would fuel a holiday-buying boom.

Customers were bewildered by finding brochures in the travel agents for three seasons — this summer, next winter and next summer — all on display at once. Some of the smaller travel agents were openly hostile to the move.

The holiday firms were convinced that the "feel-good" factor would lead to a rush of sales and that the price cuts they have been able to offer because of the strong pound would encourage customers to book now for next year's summer holiday.

"Our research shows that the month of May will break all records for the sale of holidays," says a spokesman

for Thomson Holidays. Up for grabs is the anticipated £21 billion which will be injected into the economy as a result of the sales of building society free shares and other windfalls due to be received by the public within the next few months. The tour operators believe between £1 billion and £3 billion of this will be spent on holidays, both for this year and next.

Although about 50,000 holidays were sold by travel agents over the Bank Holiday weekend and during the first half of this week, most had already been earmarked by regular customers who insist on returning to the same resort year after year.

Lynn Poly, Britain's biggest travel agency chain, says that the early bookings have come in from families taking advantage of the discounts and free places for children.

Although most clients were demanding resorts across the Mediterranean, long-haul destinations such as the Dominican Republic and Cancun

in Mexico were also proving particularly popular. Couples already drawing up their wedding plans for summer next year were among those booking early for the Dominican Republic which is now established as the fastest growing destination in the Caribbean.

But despite discounts of at least 10 per cent off all overseas holidays next summer, up to 25 per cent off selected short breaks and "kids go free" offers galore, the reaction from the bulk of customers has been lukewarm.

Going Places says that it took bookings worth £1 million by lunchtime last Friday, but these were mainly from those who had already indicated they would sign on the dotted line as soon as the brochures were published.

Thomson says it sold at least 20,000 holidays on the first day they went on sale. "We have never gone on sale this early before so it will be a number of weeks before we can tell how successful it has been," says a spokesman. "But

by what we can judge so far, long-haul destinations have done quite well with holidays in the Dominican Republic, Florida and Mexico already being snapped up."

First Choice is concentrating on persuading customers to fly from regional airports and at "unsocial" hours by offering an increased discount of £25 per person if they travel at night.

But Thomas Cook says that things are still "relatively quiet" and expects the advanced bookings market for 1998 to be small.

Chris Kirker, chairman of the Association of Independent Tour Operators whose 150 members supply about 20 per cent of all summer package holidays, says that his members will wait until the middle of the summer "or even later" before putting their brochures on sale.

"When all the mass market operators are selling holidays which are indistinguishable from each other it is not surprising that they try to outdo each other by launching early," he says.



Exotic locations: couples are booking for 1998 weddings



Wise words find their mark

Compared with Virgin Airlines boss Richard Branson, Peter Legro is hardly a household name. But his airline, Transavia, is one of the most successful in Europe and he is President of the International Air Carrier Association.

In the industry he is much respected for his forthright opinions, which is why so many executives gathered to hear him speak to the Aviation Club in London last week. Some of what he said deserves a wider audience.

Timekeeping: "The industry," he said, "spends vast sums of money advertising the wonders of flying in our metal tubes when we cannot even guarantee to stick to the timetables we write."

Airlines should not be seen as an easy tax target Fewer than 20 per cent of flights operate on time and "we are lucky that our passengers do not yet seem to worry about the odd 15 minutes". How long will that tolerance last?

Air traffic control: "The authorities will spend money on beautiful air-conditioned halls and lounges full of shops and casinos for the customers waiting for delayed aircraft."

The Greeks, he explained, are not ready to move into their new air traffic control centre. Italy will be short of 140 air traffic controllers and the French air traffic controllers' three-year pay deal is up for renewal this year — "Enjoy your summer."

Noise: "The authorities on the one hand have given Schiphol a maximum operational capacity of some 44 million passengers a year but on the other hand it will run out of capacity at peak times next summer at only 25 million passengers."

because of a package of noise restrictions.

"And I bet those same environmentalists are touring the travel agencies looking for the cheapest fares possible for their holiday in the sun and wondering why we say we cannot afford to match the targets for noise."

Newcomers: Banks are lending money to new startup "flintstone" airlines who pay peanuts to use aircraft inherited from some other failed carrier. "They start flying in a blaze of publicity and then go bust leaving the rest of us with decimated revenues."

Taxes: "Governments must not get the idea that the industry is an easy target."

Spain has a new departure tax of 150 pesetas a head to provide better security equipment. But when Majorca opened its new terminal there was no room for the equipment. "What are we paying for?"

Duty free: "If duty free is banned from European Union airports and flights it will put up the cost of holidays by around £10 a head."

Airports: In many state-run airports "we still get lousy service from inept individuals working for chaotic management with outdated equipment."

State aid: "In 1996 some \$12 billion of state aid went into five carriers that between them control 35 per cent of Europe's air transport capacity. One third of our industry cannot or will not stand up by itself."

It was all good, powerful stuff from someone who clearly knows — and cares — both about the travel business and about his customers. Let us hope governments, as well as his colleagues, were listening.

Price-war truce may hit fares

By STEVE KEENAN

THE COST of crossing the Channel is set to leap with a price-war truce and the removal of duty-free shopping in 1999, ferry operators say.

The number of ships operating out of Dover — which with the Tunnel account for 70 per cent of all cross Channel passengers — has fallen in 1997. And with approval expected shortly for the merger of P&O and Stena Line operations from Kent ports, more sailings will be cut, reducing capacity and pressure on fares.

Le Shuttle has raised 1997 summer prices for a standard return from £129 to £169 and five-day tickets from £69 to £109.

Stena says the average cost of a Dover-Calais return — including £1 day-trippers — tumbled from £150 in 1994 to just £90 last year.

Bill Dlx, managing director of Le Shuttle, says: "Prices are clearly not sufficient and there will be more increases in 1998. When duty-free shopping goes in 1999, there will be fewer day-trips and prices may have to go up by 50 per cent to recover the duty-free income."

The ending of tax-free goods will mean a huge loss for cross-Channel operators. One-third of all Dover ferry passengers are now day-trippers, says Stena. Brittany Ferries claims the figure is as high as 54 per cent.

Dover-based ferries generate half of all income from shopping, compared to just 20 per cent on routes from the south-west. Peter Stratton, P&O marketing director, says: "All companies will suffer terribly."

One report estimates 11 ferry routes from the UK will disappear in 1999, along with 25 ships. David Burdon, general sales manager of Stena Line, predicts that in future only six ships will operate out of Dover, compared with ten now.

Dialysis on holidays

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A TRAVEL company is offering breaks for patients with kidney disease at Butlin's Holiday Worlds. The Dialysis Travel Company (DTC) is pioneering tailor-made holidays for the 7,000 Britons who need to spend five hours on a machine, three times a week.

The company was created by David Topham, formerly chief technician at a hospital renal unit. His firm has holiday dialysis centres at Southcoast World in Bognor Regis and Puncost World in Skegness. Three more at Somerwest World in Minehead, Starcoast World in Pwllheli, and Wonderwest World in Ayr are awaiting registration under the Nursing Homes Act.

The holidays cost the same as for any other Butlin's customer. The bill for dialysis is sent to the patient's local health authority.

Britons travelling to the Continent can arrange to get free care in state clinics. Outside the EU, dialysis can be arranged but the cost of between £170 and £200 a session is often prohibitive.

● Dialysis Travel Company, 0181-449 7500

● National Kidney Federation, 6 Stanley Street, Worsley, Nottinghamshire S80 7HX for list of holiday dialysis centres in UK and main foreign resorts, send £1

For Eurodial booklet, covering Europe, send £2



Jumbay Bay, off Antigua, whose owners claim that losses have forced them to close. About 200 British holidaymakers visit the island each year

Judge keeps 'paradise' open

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

ONE of the Caribbean's most exclusive and expensive island resorts has been ordered to remain open for business — even though it does not have any guests.

A judge ruled this week that the privately owned Jumbay Bay, off Antigua, whose owners claim that heavy losses have forced them to close, must remain open until a better financial dispute with multimillionaire property owners has been resolved.

Meanwhile, dozens of guests, including many from Britain, have been offered alternative holidays on other Caribbean islands.

The Jumbay Bay resort consists of a hotel complex and 38 cottages and suites hidden discreetly around the 300-acre island. There are also a few villas, which are mainly owned by wealthy Americans who can become members of the Jumbay Bay Club and use the main hotel facilities free.

The Antigua owners of the island claim they are losing so much money that they have no choice but to wind up

the club and build about 60 more hotel villas to rent. However, some existing owners who rely on the hotel for their electricity claim that the closure is unnecessary. They have obtained an injunction preventing the club from being wound up.

The hotel was already shut down and guests offered alternative accommodation, but the judge ruled that no further action could be taken until the dispute was settled.

Although 11 British tour operators feature Jumbay Bay in their brochures, only about 200 British holidaymakers visit the island each year.

The high cost — about £4,000 per person per week — does not deter the seriously rich. But Jumbay Bay is not everyone's taste.

Antigua suffered terribly from Hurricane Luis in 1995 and Jumbay Bay itself was badly hit. The resort was seen by locals and the Government as a drawcard for the world's wealthy.

They were proud of the fact that such celebrities as George Harrison, Ralph Fiennes, Lord Sainsbury, Ken Follet, Meryl Streep, Tom Cruise and Arnold Schwarzenegger were regular visitors, and even boasted that Diana, Princess of Wales, was once turned away.

But this week tour operators such as Abercrombie & Kent, Elegant Resorts, Caribbean Connections and Caribbeans told potential guests that they should go instead to the K Club on Barbuda, Mustique or Cap Jalousie on Anguilla.

Geoffrey Kent, chief executive of Abercrombie & Kent, regarded Jumbay Bay as his favourite hideaway. First established as a holiday destination, it was formerly known as Long Island and was taken over by its present owners in 1987, who named it after a playful local spirit.

It takes ten minutes to reach the island by boat and, once there, visitors are surrounded with the ultimate in luxury. Egyptian cotton sheets on the beds, thousands of imported trees to provide shade, Michelin-star chefs and hand-picked staff who outnumber guests by three to one.

Central to the transient island community is the Estate House, an English sugar plantation manor that was built in the mid-1700s. Upstairs in the tastefully restored house is a bar known as The Library, where guests can order the most exotic cocktails or rare wines, while others choose to take tea on the veranda.

Water sports of all kinds are included in the price, as is the American game of six-wicket croquet. There are rare birds, even rarer sheep, hawksbill turtles and some of the finest beaches in the world.

But although honeymooners especially love its privacy and solitude, others find it "artificial" and cut off from the real world.

Now it must remain in limbo at least until next week while the financial wrangle is resolved.

DIY tours beat the rip-off reps

ORGANISED holiday excursions can cost more than three times as much as going by yourself, according to *Holiday Which?*, the consumer magazine, Harvey Elliott writes.

Research shows that holidaymakers can be taken for an expensive ride if they book through a tour operator. An independent excursion from Paris to Versailles, for example, was £26 while an organised tour was £84.

Tour operators take a cut from the price of a trip laid on by a local agency, part of which gets passed on to the resort rep as commission.

Reps maximise profits by selling excursions and warning visitors of the dangers of independent trips. But as tourists are often hurried around sights, sometimes without a guide, they may be better off going by themselves.

"It is very easy in many places to organise your own trip," says Kim Winter, managing editor of *Holiday Which?* "Local excursions can be good value as they may include food, drink and transport, but for longer trips the experience may well be more rewarding alone."

"Look at guide books, drop into the local tourist office, and pick a different day to the one all the tour operator groups use to avoid the crowds."

Day trips soar in popularity

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

A DAY out at one of Britain's numerous tourist attractions is proving irresistible to families who want to soak up history and culture as well as be entertained.

British Tourist Authority figures show that last year more than 60 per cent of the top tourist attractions reported an increase in visitors.

Legoland, which opened only last year, leapt from nowhere to eighth place in the league table of "paid for" attractions, with 1.4 million people paying up to £15 each to get in. But the most popular destination is still Blackpool Pleasure Beach, attracting 7.5 million people in 1996.

Overall, the number of visitors increased by 3 per cent, with industrial heritage sites such as old factories, farms and steam railways recording well over the average increase.

Alton Towers remains the most popular "paid for" attraction for the fifth year running, with 2.7 million visitors, followed by Madame Tussaud's, the Tower of London and Canterbury Cathedral. Canterbury is fourth in the table of cathedrals and churches, attracting 1.7 million people even though it charges £3 for admission.



Small wonder: Legoland has become the eighth most popular attraction in the UK

Westminster Abbey and York Minster, where entrance is free, attracted 2,500,000 and 2,200,000 respectively. The Tower of London, Windsor Castle and Edinburgh Castle were the most popular historic monuments.

Hampton Court, Kew and the Tropical World at Roundhay Park, Leeds, were

the most popular gardens: the British Museum, the National Gallery and the Tate Gallery the favoured museums, and London, Chester and Edinburgh the most visited zoos.

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway, the Ffestiniog Railway and the Severn Valley Railway each attracted about 200,000 enthusiasts last year, while the top visitor attraction was Cadbury World at

Birmingham, followed by the Old Blacksmith's Shop at Greta Green.

David Quarmbay, the chairman of the British Tourist Authority, says: "New attractions, such as the London Aquarium and Thackray's Medical Museum in Leeds, together with increased investment in established venues, should encourage more days out in 1997."

EQUESTRIANISM: BADMINTON RULE HANDS ADVANTAGE TO BRITISH RIDERS

King eyes crowning glory

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY KING, unbeaten in a three-day event since Burghley last year, heads the list of British riders attempting to halt the formidable overseas challenge at the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials, which begin today in Gloucestershire.

The event, the only four-star competition (the highest international rating) in the world this year, has attracted most of the leading riders, including Mark Todd, of New Zealand, the winner last year, and Bruce Davidson, of the United States, the winner in 1995.

With no obvious favourite — and at least a dozen of the 80 starters well capable of winning the £25,000 first prize — the event is one of the most open for years.

The British, whose last winner was Virginia Leng in 1993, have more than a sporting chance. Because of the record entry, foreign riders have been limited to one horse, while two of the leading British riders — Ian Stark and Leslie Law — are allowed two. The controversial ruling means that some of the sport's top horses, such as Todd's Broadcave News and Blyth Tait's Aspyring, are not among the starters.

King, who since August has won the Burghley, Blenheim and Saumur three-day events in addition to

the British and Scottish Open championships, rides only one horse. Star Appeal, a 12-year-old gelding. They won at Burghley last year and Star Appeal excels in all three phases of the three-day event, but is capable of aberrations.

At Badminton last year, he fell at the first fence, and at Bramham, last June, he ran away when, according to King, "the brakes failed". King, who won in 1992 on King William, is likely to be among the leaders after the dressage. For the cross-country on Saturday, her main concern is controlling the horse. "I need to get him settled enough to really hold him across country so I can ride him accurately," she said.

Stark, the winner in 1986 and 1988, starts as one of the British favourites with Lady Hartington's eye-catching Stanwick Ghost, an 11-year-old thoroughbred. He has had a superb spring, finishing runner-up at Brigstock and third at Belton — two of the main pre-Badminton outings — but he has not proved a lucky horse.

At his first Badminton attempt, in 1994, he fell at The Quarry. Last year, he led after the cross-country but dropped to sixth after the showjumping. At the Olympic Games, he tripped coming out of the water. Stark, 43, who also rides Arakai, attributes his restored confidence in Stanwick Ghost to the

trainer, Lars Sederholm, to whom he turned for help after Atlanta.

Karen Dixon, who suffered a bitter disappointment when her veteran campaigner, Get Smart, 17, was withdrawn last night after being held over in the first horse inspection, will now rely on Too Smart, her Olympic horse.

Too Smart, an 11-year-old gelding, is bold and athletic, but has yet to fulfil his potential. He finished 24th last year after a mistake at the Beaufort Staircase. In Atlanta, where he was in the Great Britain team that finished fifth, he was clear but slow. Dixon's main concern on Saturday will be holding a straight line through the

more technical of Hugh Thomas's 31 fences.

The other leading British contenders include Law with New Flavour, a talented Irish thoroughbred; William Fox-Pitt on his Olympic horse, Cosmopolitan, who is having his first attempt at a four-star event; and Pippa Funnell, with Bits and Pieces.

Even with one horse apiece, the foreign entry is daunting. The five New Zealand riders read like a who's who of eventing. Todd, a dual Olympic champion, rides Kayen, the winner of Saumur last year; Blyth Tait, the reigning Olympic champion, is on Chesterfield; Vaughn Jefferis, the world champion, is on Bounce; Andrew Nicholson has his Burghley runner-up, Carnoon; and Sally Clark has Squirrel Hill, on which she took silver behind Tait in Atlanta.

The United States has Karen O'Connor, on her Olympic team silver medal-winner, Biko; Dorothy Crowell, on her 1994 world silver medal-winner, Molokai; and Davidson, on his 1995 winner, Eagle Lion.

Add to that an Australia squad that includes two members of their Olympic gold medal-winning team — Phillip Dutton, on True Blue Girdwood, and Andrew Hoy, on Darien Powers — and the stage is set for one of the most competitive Badminton in its 48-year history.



King: optimistic



In full swing: Kate Rodgers benefited from Tim Henman's expertise at Queen's Club yesterday when the Lawn Tennis Association launched a £3.5 million programme to boost the British game

THE SUNDAY TIMES

VIRGIN TRAINS OFFER ARRIVING SUNDAY.



Don't miss The Sunday Times this Sunday for details.

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RUGBY UNION

Bayfield to miss England's tour

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN BAYFIELD'S playing career is on hold once more. A pelvic condition has recurred and Bayfield, the Northampton lock, who has made only a handful of appearances for his club this season, has been forced to withdraw from the England tour to Argentina, which begins on May 18.

Since John Fowler, the Sale lock, is also expected to withdraw, the team management must find replacements for the engine-room with some speed. They have talked to Nigel Redman, the experienced Bath lock, and considered Dan Grewcock, of Coventry, and Richard West, of Richmond, though the latter has been afflicted by a knee injury in recent weeks.

Richmond, the winners of the second division, have announced plans to bolster both their playing squad and expand their overall sporting interests. They have signed Jason Wright, the Otago centre, along with a crop of promising youngsters in Craig Gillies, the Bath lock, Dominic Chapman, the Harlequins wing, and Lee Best, a full back from Durham. The signing of Barry Williams, the Neath hooker, is expected to be confirmed within days.

In addition, Craig Quinell, the Wales utility forward, has extended his contract until 2001. Quinell, however, will be out of action for two months after an operation on a torn tendon in his left knee and will be unavailable for Wales's summer tour of the United States and Canada.

Ashley Levett, the millionaire who became the club's owner a year ago, hopes to draw other sports around the hub provided by the successful rugby side.

He has bought a controlling interest in Richmond Jaguars, the ambitious third-division basketball team, and also hopes to bring an ice hockey team to the area.

Peter Glanville, the Gloucester flanker, has been named as club captain for next season. His election, as successor to Dave Sims, came after a vote by the players on Tuesday night. Richard Hill, the club's director of rugby, had put three names forward for their consideration.

□ Fran Cotton, the manager of the British Lions, has emerged as president of a new Rugby Football Union (RFU) Reform Group. Ten days before the Lions set off for South Africa, Cotton has repeated his accusations that RFU officials misled the annual meeting last year and again called on Tony Hall, its secretary, to resign.

The Reform Group says that, in the past 20 months, the RFU has "mismanaged the transition to open rugby... misled the membership at general meetings... sold out to BSkyB... threatened the five nations' championship and sidelined the democratically elected executive committee chairman, Cliff Brittle." The group also alleges that the RFU has "neglected the sponsorship for clubs outside leagues one and two, leaving them financially exposed."

Erskine ignores injury to secure final reward

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SALE, already deprived of Charlie Vyvyan, will be without John Fowler, another of their injured forwards, in the Pilkington Cup final against Leicester on Saturday, despite the efforts of a faith healer to repair Fowler's injury.

Fowler is still hoping to make the England tour of Argentina later this month, but damaged knee ligaments, which he sustained two weeks ago, had not recovered sufficiently for him to be considered yesterday for the XV for Twickenham.

Vyvyan broke an ankle in the 20-20 draw with Leicester in the Courage Clubs Championship last Saturday, which gave Leicester the last Heineken Cup place for next season at the expense of Sale.

In Vyvyan's absence, John Mitchell, the club's New Zealand director of rugby, switched to No. 8. Neil Aspin moves to blind-side flanker, Mitchell's normal theatre of operation. Despite a broken nose in the game against Leicester, Dave Erskine, Fowler's replacement, has put off an operation and will partner Dave Baldwin in the middle of the lineout.

Compared with Leicester, Sale's strength in depth is limited, but Mitchell last night dismissed suggestions that the draw against Leicester would affect his side on Saturday.

Mitchell said: "Saturday is a totally different game, a one-off situation. I believe that there will be much more emotion shed on this occasion. We were disappointed after last weekend, but this side has got a lot of spirit and intends to do very well."

"I just hope that the referee on Saturday will allow us to deliver quick ruck ball, which was not the case last Saturday. At the end of the day, the game is about scoring tries. It's my philosophy and the southern hemisphere philosophy, and for the game to improve in this part of the world, a ball from the ruck has to become quicker."

"One of Leicester's key attributes for a long time has been slowing it down, and I hope that is not allowed to occur this time."

The European Conference will comprise 32 teams next season, 16 from France, eight from England, four from Wales and one each from Ireland, Italy, Romania and Scotland. Romania will be represented by a Regional XV. The Heineken Cup will comprise four teams from England, France and Wales, three each from Ireland and Scotland and two from Italy.

SALE: J. Mitchell (captain); D. Pass; J. Gwynne; A. Haden; T. Bain; S. Murray; D. Morris; P. Winstanley; S. Thompson; A. Smith; A. Hurst; D. Erskine; D. Baldwin; D. O'Grady; J. Mitchell; P. Thompson; J. O'Grady; C. Yates; A. Morris; S. Fischer; L. Hewson; M. Dever.

RACING: OWNER BANKS ON ANOTHER ROODEYE DIVIDEND WITH ROYAL COURT IN ORMONDE STAKES

Sangster aims to scoop treble chance

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT SANGSTER'S life-long love affair with Chester could reach historic proportions today as he attempts to complete a clean sweep of the main prizes at the three-day meeting.

The runaway success of Top Cees in the Tote Chester Cup, which came 24 hours after Sangster's success in the Chester Vase, tees up the possibility of a unique treble with the well-fancied Royal Court lining up for today's feature race, the Ormonde Stakes.

Born just down the road from the Roodeye, Sangster is passionate about the city and its night oval racecourse and

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TADEO (3.40 Chester)
Next best: Royal Court (3.10 Chester)

he is confident about rewriting the record books. "We will win," he said after Top Cees became the first horse since Sea Pigeon to win the Chester Cup a second time.

Nicky Adams attempted to steal the race by kicking Ertterby Park into a handsome lead shortly after halfway in the stammina-sapping handicap, but Jimmy Fortune and Top Cees picked up the leader turning for home and stormed clear to win by ten lengths.

"I thought they were going too far on the very soft ground and my horse travels well. It was only a matter of steering him round there. I was probably the only one that got the trip. Everything else fell in heap at the three-furlong pole," Fortune said.



The winner Top Cees, patiently ridden by Fortune, is plum last as the field sets out on the final circuit of yesterday's Tote Chester Cup

While the first Chester Cup victory by Top Cees, two years ago, was clouded in controversy, yesterday's victory represented a triumph over adversity — much of it self-inflicted by the seven-year-old gelding. His favourite occupation is dumping riders on their backsides before roaring off at speed over the horizon, with little regard to his own safety.

After picking up an injury last autumn, which prevented him running in the Cesare-

witch, he performed his favourite trick on his first day back this spring and by the time he had been caught he had kicked a knee. "It has been a chapter of minor nightmares," Lynda Ramsden, trainer of Top Cees, said.

Jack Ramsden, husband of the trainer and one of the shrewdest backers in the land, had been convinced Top Cees would show improved form on soft ground. "Then I chick-

saying he was not certain to get the trip in soft ground. Pretty pathetic isn't it?" he said.

However, one suspects the master punter more than made up for the temporary lapse when Bishop's Court justified favouritism with a contemptuous ease in the Roodeye Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Perfect Paradigm's effort-

less victory in the Cheshire Regiments Handicap produced the inevitable question as to whether the Derby entrant might line up against Entrepreneur. "You boys are getting

desperate for something to take on Entrepreneur," John Gosden said. "I don't think Epsom would be his cup of tea. If he goes for a Derby, it is more likely to be of the Italian or Austrian variety."

The search for a genuine

challenger to the Derby favourite should centre on the Michael Seely Glasgow Stakes at York next week, which looks like being the best trial with the likes of Tannassa, Apprehension and Shays.

Jewel ready to sparkle

CHESTER
CHANNEL 4

2.10: Gay Kellaway has high hopes for Be My Wish but her juveniles usually need their first run. Antonia's Double has recorded two respectable efforts but may not relish the soft ground. Bodfordistinction has plenty of speed and should improve after a promising debut effort when fourth to Penicillin at Thirsk but the well related Jewel is preferred. She was slowly away at Newmarket but kept on nicely to finish fifth behind Pacifica, and Richard Hannons' runners invariably improve after their debut.

2.40: Barnum Sands will find this going more to his liking after finishing fourth behind Fahrirs in the listed Feliden Stakes on fast ground at Newmarket. Teofilio, a length second to Hidden Meadow at York last October, lost his maiden tag with ease at Beverley two weeks ago and has been working nicely. However, Barry Hills loves winning this race and Muesalusa, who was a worthy favourite after beating Hanes some Ridge in a fast-run race at Doncaster, the form of which has worked out well.



3.10: Moonax will be fit after a hurdling campaign and the 1994 St Leger winner escapes a group one penalty, but he is a temperamental character. The front-running Salmon Ladder should ensure that this is a true test, and that



Hills: good record

will favour Royal Court. Peter Chapple-Hyam's light-year half-brother, the 1992 Derby winner, Dr Devlin, will relish a slog through the mud and is reportedly fit enough to make a winning reappearance. Election Day finished second to Oscar Schindler in this race last year and has produced two respectable efforts this term on unsuitably fast ground. He rates the main danger. Water Poet, switched from Andre Fabre to Godolphin, is bred to appreciate the mud and cannot be ruled out.

3.40: Tadeo is not best in at the weights but saves his best for when the mud is flying. Mark Johnston's tough gelding has plenty of speed, an ideal draw and ran well here last season. That Man Again bounced back to near his best when fourth to Repertory from a moderate draw at Newbury 20 days ago, but all his wins have come on fast ground. Lynda Ramsden's Surprise Mission is still on a winning mark after two wins but is unproven on the soft. Pride Of Britain, a couple and distance winner, is well treated at the weights on his seasonal reappearance.

RICHARD EVANS

HAMILTON PARK

THUNDERER
2.00 Henry The Hawk, 2.30 Mamma's Boy, 3.00 All On, 3.30 Fuchies Lad, 4.05 Allez, 4.35 Kathryn's Pet.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES)
DRAW: SF, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.00 CLOYDE VALLEY HANDICAP
(£2,908; 5f 4yd) (11 runners)

1 (1) 0-40 STOLEN KISS (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
2 (2) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
3 (3) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
4 (4) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
5 (5) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
6 (6) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
7 (7) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
8 (8) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
9 (9) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
10 (10) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
11 (11) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94

2.30 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(Qualifier 2-Y-O £2,752; 5f 4yd) (6)

1 (1) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
2 (2) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
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2.40 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(Qualifier 2-Y-O £2,752; 5f 4yd) (6)

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3.00 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE / JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION HANDICAP

(£5,084; 1m 5f 9yd) (8)

1 (1) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
2 (2) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
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8 (8) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94

3.30 BOLLINGER CHAMPAGNE STAKES

(£2,626; 1m 6f 9yd) (9)

1 (1) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
2 (2) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
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9 (9) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94

4.05 BELLSHILL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN

(£2,556; 1m 4f 17yd) (5)

1 (1) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
2 (2) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
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4.35 EAGLESHAM LIMITED STAKES

(£2,556; 1m 4f 17yd) (5)

1 (1) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
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5 (5) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94

3.50 FRESIA FILLIES HANDICAP

(£2,966; 5f) (13)

1 (1) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
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4.25 BONGINA SELLING STAKES (£2,070; 6f) (14)

1 (1) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
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14 (14) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94

4.55 PETUNIA HANDICAP (£3,278; 7f) (15)

1 (1) 0-20 TROPICAL BEACH (B) (J) M W Searcy 5-10-0 T Limes 94
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CHESTER

THUNDERER

2.10 Bodfordistinction 3.40 Tadeo
2.40 Muesalusa 4.15 Gulf Shaadi
3.10 ELA-ARISTOKRATI 4.45 Resayel

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.10 ELA-ARISTOKRATI
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 Teofilio, 3.10 ELECTION DAY
(nap), 3.40 That Man Again.

By Ivo TENNANT

BY JAMES ALLEN

BY JOHN THICKNESSE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

BY RAYMOND KEENE

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FOR THE RECORD		FIXTURES
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By Philip Howard

AFKOMAN
a. A colonist
b. A piece of bread
c. A doorbell

GOONDA
a. A disguised leg break
b. A job
c. A very hot Madras curry

Answers on page 46

By Raymond Keene

Solution on page 46

G-MOVE

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2. N. Muxian (Bel) 3. A. Tichard

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CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Pre-
Nathan St Anne's 23 Duplex

multimers: 30 30 12 29 31 5

THE PARKS: Oxford University v

Field v Newcastle (7.45).



MOTOR RALLYING 45

Late charge helps
McRae close gap
on world champion

SPORT

THURSDAY MAY 8 1997

BRYANT'S EYE 46

Why Tony Banks
is Britain's man
for all seasons



Ferguson believes that his Premiership champions can only get better

United to keep red flag flying

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

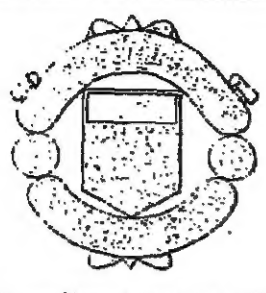
IT WAS quiet at Old Trafford yesterday. The forecourt was full of cars as usual, but there were no party balloons up. The Megastore was almost empty; the Superstore was deserted, too. Only in the gloom of the tunnel that runs beneath the main stand was there any outward sign that Manchester United had just won their fourth championship title in five years.

A small group had gathered there, initially to shelter from the rain that came and went in squalls and then to ask officials whether there was any chance of players appearing to sign autographs. A middle-aged couple, from Glasgow, said the Rangers and Celtic players always showed up at Ibrox and Parkhead respectively after training.

As the rain persisted, however, the knots of supporters turned their attention to a line of posters on the wall, a series of large faces staring out from a black background, each inscribed with one word to encapsulate the seven virtues of Manchester United. And as they stared at them, more people came, as if to form a vigil.

The first in the line, of course, was Eric Cantona. Imagination was his quality. David May was next with Drive. Andy Cole after him with Determination and then Gary Neville with Dedication. Ryan Giggs was the Inspiration, David Beckham had Cheek and Roy Keane, hirsute and moody, was blessed with Power.

When the rain ceased, the crowd dispersed to embark on the last throes of their fruitless search for autographs. By then, the streetwise fans had



been allowed into The Cliff, United's training ground, a few miles away, to laud their heroes.

Cole was the last to leave, pausing to talk to journalists about the new sense of fulfillment he is gaining from his play, before signing the pieces of paper and the pictures thrust in front of him and climbing into his car.

Upstairs, in a modest conference room, Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, who had arrived at The Cliff early to congratulate his staff, was talking about the potential of the team that was handed the FA Carling Premiership by the failure of Newcastle United and

Liverpool to maintain their challenge for the title on Tuesday night.

It has been suggested that this United team, though they have clinched the championship with two games to spare, are not as talented as other Old Trafford incarnations that have dominated English football in the Nineties. Ferguson did not dispute the claim outright, but he did hint that after the "fairy tale" title success with so many young players last year, some of the members of his squad had found it difficult to motivate themselves for run-of-the-mill fixtures this season.

"This team does not have the power of the 1994 team yet, for instance," Ferguson said. "Ince, Robson, Hughes, Bruce, they were so powerful, all of them. You felt they could handle any game physically and it made them really difficult to beat. Sometimes, we went into games thinking we could not be beaten."

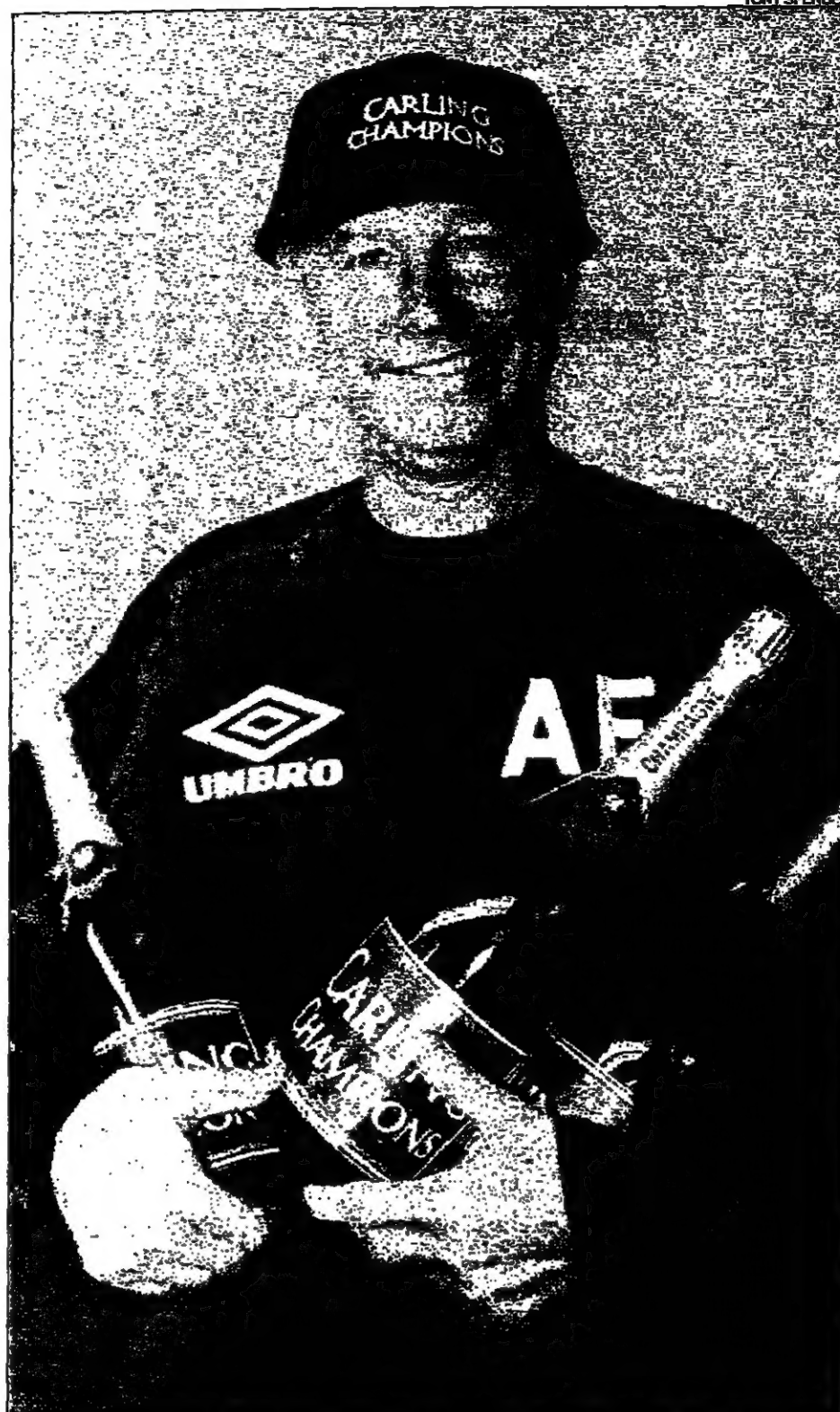
"But this team has got to go through all that. It has its advantages. Someone like Solskjaer is going to improve and improve next year, physically and in other ways. I do think these players will get even better. I don't know how much better until they reach maturity, but some of them could be great players."

"Their tactical awareness is one thing that is already better. But one little problem this season is that we have been focusing on the big games and not the mundane ones. We have got to get back to basics, but when you are winning things you get that happening. We need to focus on it next year."

"I think we can go on to be as dominant as Liverpool were. The young players have showed great mental toughness. They have opened remarkably well and there is no reason why they should not go from strength to strength."

Next year, of course, will be another year in pursuit of the European Cup and Ferguson also praised his players for refusing to let their advancement to the semi-finals this season adversely affect their domestic performances.

Ferguson did not depart, ironically enough, without one final swipe at the Premier League, the organisation that has become synonymous with the rebirth of greatness at Old Trafford, but which refused to grant an extension to the



Champagne moment: Ferguson prepares to celebrate United's title triumph yesterday

season to ease United's fixture congestion. When he spoke, it was as if he had seen the T-shirts draped over a wall outside Upton Park on Tuesday night that proclaimed, "I'd rather be dead than red", or heard the singing of the Newcastle and

West Ham United fans on the tube train on the way back into London, united in their hatred of Old Trafford.

"We stand on our own," Ferguson said. "We have won this without the help of the Premiership because we do not get any support on major

issues. It is not a chip on my shoulder, just recognition that we have done it on our own. There is a terrible amount of jealousy towards Manchester United. I do not know why." Four titles in five years, perhaps, might have something to do with it.

Liverpool put Ince at top of wanted list

By DAVID MADDOCK

WHILE Manchester United launched into a familiar celebration on Tuesday evening, Liverpool were left, once more, to endure the lonely route of recrimination. Their failure to secure the FA Carling Premiership has initiated a swift and decisive response as Roy Evans, the manager, turns his mind to next season.

In the wake of Tuesday's disappointment, when Liverpool lost 2-1 at Wimbledon and thus conceded the title to United, Evans's first act has been to dispatch a representative to Milan in an attempt to secure the signing of Paul Ince. An initial offer was made for the Internazionale and England midfielder two weeks ago that promised to make him the highest-paid player at Anfield. However, Liverpool will not have it all their own way, for Chelsea have also approached Ince, who must now weigh up the respective offers.

He is certain to leave Inter after securing an agreement that his transfer will proceed at a reduced fee. Ince suggested to his Italian club that, if he was priced out of a move back to England, he would remain in Italy for the final year of his contract and then return on a free transfer. The threat has succeeded.

Significantly, the Liverpool manager has said that the players' age presented no problem. "Spending money on a 29-year-old is probably money that you will not get back," he then, under Bossman, it is unlikely that you would get money for any player in the future," Evans said. He hopes to hurry through a deal next week, but Ince may wait until after the FA Cup Final to see if Chelsea, who meet Middlesbrough at Wembley, qualify for Europe.

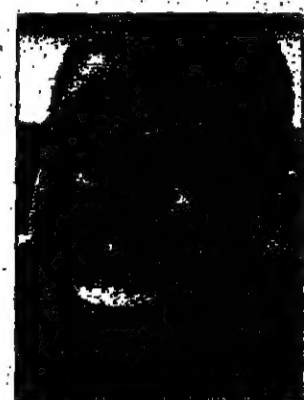
Ince will not be the only target for Liverpool. After an ultimately depressing season, Evans has taken the decision to make fundamental changes at the club. John Barnes could move to a coaching role, with several other players — including Stan Collymore, Phil Babb, Neil Ruddock, Mark Kennedy, Rob Jones and even Patrik Berger — all likely to leave.

That would clear the ground for other signings. Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, confirmed yesterday that Oyvind Leonhardsen

will be sold in the summer for a fee of £4.5 million. Evans had talks with the Norway international two weeks ago and is likely to conclude a deal after the season is completed. The Liverpool manager may also enjoy success if he pursues interests in Sol Campbell, of Tottenham Hotspur, and Jari Litmanen, the Ajax and Finland forward.

England may lose the services of Robbie Fowler, Darren Anderton and Ian Walker for the summer. Fowler, the Liverpool forward, is to undergo an operation on his adenoids and may miss the summer tournament in France. Anderton and Walker, of Tottenham, are definite non-starters for all England's close-season games — both have been told to rest for six weeks in an effort to clear long-standing injuries.

Ian Wright, the Arsenal



Ince ultimatum

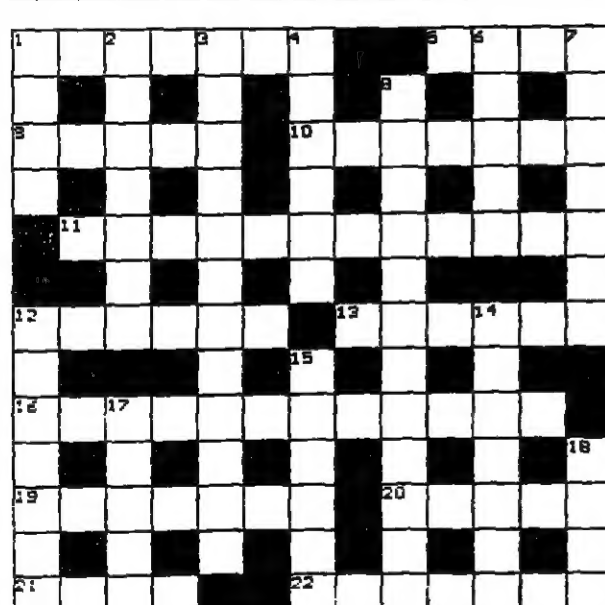
striker, has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association after complaints that he made derisive gestures at spectators and barged a steward at Coventry City on April 21. He has already been charged by the FA over remarks he made to the referee during Arsenal's draw with Blackburn Rovers two days earlier.

Kevin Davies, the 20-year-old Chesterfield striker, is to join Southampton in a £1 million transfer. Davies was prominent in Chesterfield's giant-killing run to the semi-finals of the FA Cup.

Stuart Pearce is expected to resign as player-manager of Nottingham Forest today. Dave Bassett, the club's general manager, is expected to assume control of team affairs after their relegation from the Premiership.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1088 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



- ACROSS
- Gruesome (7)
 - Narrow aperture (4)
 - Distinction, worth (5)
 - Virtuosic display (7)
 - Repeatedly (4,3,5)
 - To slander, traduce (6)
 - Lots of, orig. 10,000 (6)
 - Carefree (5-2-5)
 - Bogey, fabulous animal (7)
 - Make reparation (5)
 - Still, regular (4)
 - Touching line (7)
- DOWN
- Act silently: Siegfried's mentor (Wagner) (4)
 - Friendly: a drink (7)
 - Lepidopterist's trap (9,3)
 - (Tide) going out (6)
 - Petrarch's muse (5)
 - (Gun) pointed; (sportsman) prepared (7)
 - Tax-deduction system (3-2-3-4)
 - A wheeled transport (7)
 - Vexatious (7)
 - Tasmania capital (6)
 - Vigorous period: to brief (5)
 - Escape passage: release (feelings) (4)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6586, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name: Address

SOLUTION TO NO 1087
ACROSS: 1 Arch 3 Franc 8 Corsage 9 Grunt 10 Viper
11 In touch 13 Langoustine 17 Assurance 19 Abhor 20 Tiger
22 Effects 23 Empower 24 Play
DOWN: 1 Alove 2 Chrysalis 3 Flea in one's ear 4 Angst
5 Tau 6 Catech 7 Matron 12 Unethical 14 Staffs
15 Sante 16 Frisky 18 Arrow 21 Gap

Robson needs Middlesbrough win

By DAVID MADDOCK

AT LEAST Bryan Robson's dry sense of irony has not deserted him. Reflecting on Middlesbrough's increasingly anxious attempt to avoid relegation from the FA Carling Premiership, he smiled sweetly yesterday and offered a surprising analysis. "It is the most exciting period in our history," he said.

Perhaps soldiers in the trenches offered similar thoughts, for the Middlesbrough manager could be forgiven if he were suffering from a touch of shell shock after the events of recent weeks. Monday's tense 3-3 draw at Old Trafford was

certainly thrilling, but surely not for those involved. The excitement continues tonight at Blackburn Rovers, where Middlesbrough must avoid defeat if they are to maintain any realistic hope of staying up. Even a draw would tip the balance against them.

Two wins will guarantee league safety and that must be our aim," he said. "We must go for victory in both our remaining matches. We still have some hope if we draw, but six points equals survival and that is the only thing we are concentrating on. No one at this club has even given a second thought about Wembley [and the FA Cup Final]."

A win, or even a draw for

that matter, would ensure safety for Blackburn and leave Middlesbrough searching for victory at Leeds United on Sunday, knowing that, for them to escape relegation, results involving Coventry City and Sunderland must go their way. At least the North East club received some good news yesterday, when Fabrizio Ravanelli suggested he could be fit to play at Elland Road.

Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, football's world governing body, repeated his criticisms yesterday of the size of the Premiership, which has 20 clubs, and the Premier Liga in Spain, which has 22. "They are both far too

big," he said. "It would be much more sensible to have only 16 teams."

Uefa, the European governing body, has argued for an 18-team Premiership, a case that was given unexpected support yesterday in a report by Deloitte and Touche, the management consultancy firm. Presenting the case for a radical restructuring of the Football League, the report says it should comprise 96 clubs "including all from the Vauxhall Conference and, ultimately, two from the Premiership", leaving 18 in the top flight, 24 in the first division, 24 in the second and 24 in each of two regionalised third divisions, north and south.

Lawrence bounces back from brink

James Allen on the return of the bowler who won the battle of wounded knee

THE fast-bowling career of David Lawrence, which seemed to have been cruelly ended by injury while playing for England in New Zealand five years ago, resumed yesterday in a manner that will raise spirits far beyond the boundaries of Gloucestershire.

When Lawrence marked out his run and took the new ball in front of a few disbelieving souls at the County Ground in Bristol, the memory of his contorted features, as he lay with a shattered left knee, came back to him. His bouncer is in good working order.

"It was a relief more than anything," Lawrence said. "People had written me off, perhaps understandably, because it was an horrific injury, but it just shows what you can do with will-power and determination. It was a big day for me and it has been a long time coming. I've just worked hard at getting my fitness back, but I've only really dreamt about this."

ends and a lengthening of his run-up to something like the rumble of old brought swift reward for a courageous decision to give first-class cricket another go at the age of 33. It was with unbridled joy that Lawrence and his team-mates greeted Hancock's outstanding catch at fine leg from Lane's top-edged hook. His bouncer is in good working order.

A huge support now covers the knee and the heavy scars bear witness to the trauma of the last of his five appearances for England. In a premature attempt at a comeback the summer after his

injury, the patella cracked again. His return has taken everybody by surprise, not least those close to him. "Who would have believed it," Jack Russell said. "When I heard that he was thinking about a comeback, I didn't think it was possible."

It was Russell who was keeping wicket on that fateful day in Wellington, as he was yesterday. "He bowled some lively balls on a wicket which did not really suit him," Russell said. "Give him a wicket that is hard and fast and he will be back to his old pace, no doubt about it. It was virtually like the Syd of old."

Lawrence, who had acquired a wine bar in Bristol during his absence from the game, has set himself a target of ten matches and 50 wickets for the season. "I have got to be sensible," he said. "I don't want to let anybody down."

Photograph, page 45
Match reports, pages 44, 45

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